

## 5 countries join U.N. Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — South Korea, Chile, Poland, Egypt and Guinea-Bissau were elected Wednesday to represent their respective regions at the U.N. Security Council. The election of the non-permanent members was carried out by secret ballot during a plenary session of the U.N. General Assembly. The five countries will sit on the Security Council as of Jan. 1 and for a period of two years, up to Dec. 31, 1997. The choice of the five countries did not surprise observers, who earlier said South Korea's Asian slot was assured as was Chile's South American berth. But the election saw competition for the African spot between Benin and Guinea-Bissau and for the European spot between Albania and Poland, Egypt, which stepped in as a last-minute candidate in a gesture of Arab solidarity following the withdrawal of Libya, enjoyed the backing of a solid bloc in the General Assembly. The Security Council, the U.N.'s top decision-making body with a powerful international voice, is made up of 15 members, five of them permanent (Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States) with veto authority and 10 of them revolving members who must step down after serving two years.

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## 'No panic over U.S. embassy move'

CAIRO (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's official for Jerusalem said Wednesday there was no need to "panic" over the U.S. Congress decision to move its Israeli embassy to the holy city. Egypt's news agency MENA reported Wednesday. "This decision is certainly a very dangerous one and we must take it seriously," Faisal Husseini, the Palestinian minister for Jerusalem, told the press after arriving in Cairo for a two-day visit. "But we must not deal with it in a panic. While we must make clear our anger at this decision, we should also remember the U.S. administration has refused to implement it because it is damaging to peace," Mr. Husseini said. The Congress ordered the president to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by May 1999, but gave him the loophole of delaying the controversial move as long as he deems necessary. Mr. Husseini's visit came on the second day of a conference of Palestinian business leaders organised by the Arab League in Cairo on the reconstruction of the autonomy territories. Mr. Husseini said he would present a report on Jerusalem to the conference.

### Number of Iraqi diplomats is 24

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Wednesday the number of Iraqi diplomats in Amman has been fixed at 24 and that Jordan maintains 13 diplomats in Baghdad. The minister was replying to a Jordan Times question on a report that the Jordanian government had asked the Iraqi embassy here to reduce the number of diplomats. The Iraqi embassy denied that it had received any such request and that the number of Iraqi diplomats in Amman was around 20. The administrative staff at the embassy are not diplomats. Mr. Kabariti did not say when the number of Iraqi diplomats in Amman was set at 24, but, according to diplomatic sources, the number has remained constant for some time.

### Suspects in Argentine blast surrenders

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — A retired army sergeant suspected of involvement in the bombing of a Jewish charity that killed 86 people has surrendered to authorities for his own personal safety, court sources said Wednesday. Pedro Ricardo Fonseca turned himself in Monday to a judge in the southeastern city of Comodoro Rivadavia and was taken to Buenos Aires, where he was reported to have been questioned by the judge in charge of the bomb investigation. The government news agency Télam said Fonseca allegedly participated in the July 18, 1994, bombing that destroyed the seven-story building housing the Israelite-Argentine Mutual Association, killing 86 people and injuring more than 300.

### Arab family day to mark intifada

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League chose the date of the beginning of the Palestinian intifada to commemorate the "Day of the Arab Family," the league's deputy secretary for social affairs, Ahmad Kadri, said on Wednesday. The league's women's committee set Dec. 7 as the Arab Family Day before closing its 20th annual session, Mr. Kadri said. The intifada against the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank left more than 1,000 Palestinians dead between 1987 and 1992.

### Russia, Iran restore maritime links

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Russia reopened their commercial maritime links this week after almost a century of no such water routes across the Caspian Sea, Iranian state radio reported Wednesday. The link was inaugurated with the arrival at Bandar-Anzali, on the Caspian Sea, of an Iranian boat from the Russian port of Astrakhan, where it picked up almost 2,000 tonnes of paper, the radio added. Maritime links between Russia and Iran were broken off before the Bolshevik revolution in Russia in 1917 because of several Russian-Iranian conflicts. Under the Soviet Union, the two countries had no maritime commercial links across the Caspian Sea.

### Kuwait could defeat Iraqi attack — minister

CAIRO (R) — Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah said in an interview published on Wednesday his country's army had recovered from the Iraqi invasion in 1990 and was now fit to withstand an Iraqi attack. "As long as the regime in Baghdad is still in power, the security of Kuwait will remain under threat. This regime still believes that Kuwait is part of Iraq despite all the contradictions," Sheikh Ahmad added in the interview with the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat.

## New suspects held in Rabin murder Heads start rolling at Shin Bet; official inquiry launched

Combined agency dispatches

continues.

Hagai Amir arrested as a suspected accomplice and was ordered held for seven days.

The top Shin Bet secret service official in charge of protecting the prime minister meanwhile resigned over security lapses.

Israel's government on Wednesday ordered a full-scale investigation into the assassination.

Mr. Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres, told cabinet ministers the government must get tough with Jewish extremists.

"We must not hesitate to use all the means at our disposal against people indulging in incitement, the instigators and those who pull the trigger," Mr. Peres said.

Referring to police reports that he had also been targeted by Mr. Rabin's assassin, Mr. Peres suggested he would not change his daily routine: "I prefer to be killed rather than to be afraid."

As a sign of a more security-conscious era in the wake of Mr. Rabin's death, the road outside the prime minister's office was closed off Wednesday, and reporters covering the cabinet meeting were kept 200 metres away.

Army radio said several cabinet ministers have received death threats in recent days.

The cabinet ordered a full-scale probe into how the slaying could have happened and why the Jewish radical



Israeli female soldiers grieve at the grave of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (AFP photo)

movement was largely ignored by law enforcement.

"Up until now, the police, the prosecution and the attorney general have not prosecuted those who committed incitement, including incitement to murder," Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said on Israel Radio.

Earlier this year, Attorney General Michael Ben Yair urged Mr. Rabin to take some of the tough legal steps now being considered, but Mr. Rabin vetoed the idea because of an expected angry reaction from Jewish settlers in the occupied territories.

In fact, the radicals' reju-

lar calls for the assassination of both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres were ignored as the ranting of a few people on the fringe of the settler movement.

Now, according to the Yediot Achronot daily newspaper, Mr. Ben Yair is consulting with legal experts to see whether he can use such tactics as detaining Jews without charges, trying them in military courts, taking away their guns and limiting their movements.

"If anyone possesses a weapon with the intention of using it illegally, the weapon must be taken from him,"

Mr. Peres said. "If there are such agitators — go ahead and prosecute them."

Mr. Ben Yair said mean-while he feared another political murder.

"There is a serious danger of a grave disruption of the rule of order — up to the point of another political murder," Mr. Ben Yair told Haaretz newspaper in an interview.

"Some people say this incident might bring an awakening, but they very well may be speaking from their hearts' desire. I am not convinced there is a solid basis to the thought this will bring an

awakening and I don't tend to agree with that analysis, he said."

"In fact I tend to consider the opposite possibility: This murder can bring someone with the same views as the assassin to carry out another political murder, just as one suicide affects people with a certain kind of personality," Mr. Ben Yair said.

Police also have begun rounding up Jewish radicals, especially followers of the slain American Rabbi Meir Kahane. Police are investigating whether Amir, the confessed assassin, had links to Kahane Chai, an outlawed group adhering to Kahane's anti-Arab teachings.

The police serious crimes unit also is reportedly looking for several rabbis suspected of writing leaflets saying Mr. Rabin's murder was sanctioned under Jewish law. The leaflets were distributed in synagogues.

On Wednesday, police detained a rabbi from southern Israel and accused him of praising the assassination of Mr. Rabin. His name was not released.

The radicals seemed undaunted by the threat of arrest, however.

Army radio said several cabinet ministers have gotten death threats in past few days.

Noam Federman, spokesman for the Kach movement founded by Kahane, suggested that Mr. Peres should

(Continued from page 7)

Pullback schedule will be kept, Peres informs Arafat

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — New Israeli leader Shimon Peres assured Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday that he will keep to the timetable set for an Israeli pullback on the West Bank, Palestinian officials said.

The assurance came during a telephone conversation between the two men on Wednesday, said Mr. Arafat's advisor Nabil Abu Rudeina.

"They talked about how to apply the redeployment. Peres said the dates of the pullback will be respected and that the timetable will be applied as agreed," under the Sept. 28 autonomy accords.

The pullback was briefly halted following the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Saturday, but was restarted on Tuesday.

Troops began pulling back on Oct. 25 from Jenin in the north, and the withdrawal is due to be complete by the end of December.

Under the accord, soldiers are due to quit five other Palestinian towns, but will stay in Hebron as part of special arrangements to protect the 400 settlers living there among 120,000 Palestinians.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) took over West Bank post offices from Israeli control at a joint ceremony.

"Today we are in control of 40 post offices in the West Bank, employing 180 people," said Bahjat Al Khalidi, director general of the authority's Post and Communications Ministry.

He said that Palestinians, who have already issued their own stamps in self-ruled Gaza, would be able to send international letters through Jordan and Egypt.

Telephone lines and other services will be transferred, on a town-by-town basis.

Mr. Khalidi told reporters at Bet El, north of Ramallah, that the postal service handover had been delayed for more than a month because the computer software needed was Hebrew instead of Arabic.

Meanwhile, in Ramallah on the West Bank, a European Union team began setting up offices ahead of the arrival Thursday of the first 66 observers to supervise the elections.

The 66 observers were due to arrive Thursday in Tel Aviv on a multitude of planes from all over the European Union, said European Union press officer Ian Blackley.

Among the first to arrive will be Karl Lidborn, former Swedish justice minister, who is leading the team.

They will be shuttled to Ramallah on the West Bank where the headquarters will be, and the first staff were Wednesday sorting out offices, tables, chairs as well as installing telephone lines and faxes.

Over the weekend the 66 will be given training and a briefing, before starting their task of supervising in the drawing up of a Palestinian electoral roll, Mr. Blackley said.

Palestinians will start drawing up the voters list on Nov. 12 supervised by the EU observers, he added.

"They will have their own transport and they will be deployed in various areas

(Continued from page 7)

## Labour rules out early Israeli general election

TONY RABIN (Agencies) — The governing Labour Party has ruled out holding early elections following Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination and wants to move ahead on peace talks with Syria, a senior party figure said Wednesday.

An official announcement on the plans will be made next week after the traditional seven-day mourning period for Mr. Rabin, said Eli Dayan, who serves as deputy foreign minister.

The party expects acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres to form a government in the allotted six weeks, which will give him a year in power at a crucial time for negotiating peace with the Arabs before the elections scheduled next Oct. 29.

Mr. Dayan emphasised that the government would keep up efforts for a peace accord with Syria, which he believes can be achieved before the next elections.

Mr. Dayan said that to increase its hold on power now, Labour hopes to bring into the governing coalition the religious parties Shas and United Torah Judaism, which have 10 seats in the Knesset, or parliament.

Under Mr. Rabin, the party had only a slim 61-seat majority in the 120-member house, Mr. Dayan said. Mr. Peres is willing to dismiss Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, a Labour member who has been criticised by religious legislators, a move which also would open the portfolio for a religious party.

Under earlier peace accords with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), talks on the permanent solution are to begin no later than next May.

Israel has tended to proceed cautiously in the negotiations — especially since the final status talks includes the touchy issue of Jerusalem's future. But Mr. Peres' aides reportedly feel moving ahead quickly and wrapping up the talks would give an assured victory in next year's elections.

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(Continued from page 7)

## Rifkind: Assad seeking quick moves with Israel

DAVID RIFKIND (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Wednesday that the Syrian leader wanted to see a quick breakthrough in peace talks with Israel.

"As regards this visit to Israel, it's been cancelled. Mr. Rifkind is just passing through," on his way for talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza, said foreign ministry spokesman Danny Shek.

His planned trip to Jerusalem on Thursday for a meeting with acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres and to visit the Orient House, where the PLO has its headquarters for the city, was called off, the British embassy said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara, speaking at the same news conference, said that quickening the peace process was the only positive reply to the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We believe that quickening the peace process is the positive reply which will stop the region more acts of violence and tension," Mr. Shara said.

After his Damascus talks, Mr. Rifkind flew to Tel Aviv en route to Gaza and called off a visit to Jerusalem.

Israeli officials and his embassy said.

Mr. Rifkind, on the third leg of a regional tour after Syria and Saudi Arabia, flew to Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

"Earlier today when I saw President Assad he emphasised Syria's great desire to see a successful completion of peace negotiations (with Israel) and that they could be achieved very quickly," Mr. Rifkind told a news conference.

Under Israeli law, the first step in coalition building is for President Ezer Weizman to name a legislator to form a government.

The opposition Likud Party has said it will not press to take the task because it would be unseemly to play politics after the tragic killing of Mr. Rabin last Saturday.

Thus Mr. Weizman is expected to name Mr. Peres to form the government. If he failed to achieve a coalition in six weeks, Mr. Weizman would then choose another.

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(Continued from page 7)

## U.N. Security Council to retain Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council planned to maintain sanctions against Iraq on Wednesday, prohibiting Baghdad from selling its oil on world markets, diplomats and U.N. officials said.

The council meets every two months to decide whether Iraq has met conditions put forward in various post-Gulf war resolutions that forbid it from developing threatening weapons and demand that it disclose all information on past and present weapons programmes to the United Nations.

Recent reports by the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) investigating Iraqi compliance and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which have said Baghdad lied about its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in the past, make the lifting of sanctions im-

possible. A diplomat on the council called Wednesday's meeting a "basic rollover" of sanctions.

The director of UNSCOM, Rolf Ekeus, told the Security Council on Tuesday that Iraq had handed over new information to investigators within the last few days, but that it would take a long time to verify whether Baghdad was telling the truth.

He also told the council, in response to a U.N. representative's question, that UNSCOM and the IAEA were looking into whether Iraq had tried to develop radiological weapons, meaning missiles that distribute radioactive particles to kill populations through radiation sickness rather than a nuclear explosion.

European diplomats accused the United States of raising the issue and blowing

## Sudan leader calls for mass mobilisation

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir has called for mass mobilisation against southern rebels allegedly supported by foreign armies.

Lieutenant-General Bashir made the appeal at a rally on Tuesday in the province of Hasheisa, about 130 kilometres southeast of Khartoum, state television said on Wednesday.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has launched its first offensive in four years, capturing nine towns and villages since Oct. 25, and in retaliation government warplanes have bombed a southern town, diplomats and aid officials in Nairobi said on Monday.

The Sudanese government says large numbers of Ugandan and Tanzanian troops are taking part in the offensive but the diplomats said this was unlikely. Uganda might be giving the SPLA some logistical support, they added.

Gen. Bashir again blamed foreigners for the latest fighting.

"He stressed Sudan would not be cowed by conspiracies being hatched by states of international arrogance and which are imposing their will upon some neighbouring client states to use them as tools to implement those conspiracies," state radio said.

"(Bashir) called on all the sectors of the people and youth immediately to head for the popular defence camps and to enlist in the jihad battalion in order to protect the faith and the country and its territory," the radio added.

The phrasing of the report seemed to imply enlistment was voluntary but the state media described it as "a declaration of general mobilisation."

In the past two weeks the government has made several appeals for new recruits and government newspapers say there has been an enthusiastic response, with thousands of young men turning up at recruitment offices.

The recruits become members of the Popular Defence Force, a paramilitary organisation set up months after Gen. Bashir seized power in 1989 to help the army crush

## Israeli court allows woman to train as air force pilot

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a landmark decision, Israel's supreme court ruled Wednesday that the air force must open its pilots' training courses to women.

The judges ruled 3-2 for Alice Miller, a 23-year-old former aerodynamics student who now holds an officer job in the air force.

Mrs. Miller was joyous Wednesday, but also expressed concern about being the first to break into one of Israel's all-male bastions.

"I feel great tension and now hard struggle begins," Mrs. Miller told reporters after the ruling. "It's difficult to be one woman among men, especially because of the feelings men express about the issue."

Women's activists praised the ruling as a breakthrough for Israeli women. "We have removed a real obstacle of discrimination against women," said Naomi Hazan, a legislator of the left-wing

the southern rebels.

The Khartoum government has given few details of the fighting in the south but the armed forces spokesman, Major-General Mohammad Abdul Kader, said the army had killed hundreds of attacking troops.

The security situation in the operations zone was satisfactory as the armed forces had the upper hand, he added. The fighting is in Eastern Equatoria, close to Sudan's borders with Uganda and Kenya.

The armed forces have inflicted heavy casualties and losses on the invading forces, which has affected their morale and made them circulate false information to the effect that their forces are about to occupy it," he said.

Before the offensive the SPLA, which says it is fighting domination by the Arab and Muslim north of Sudan, was about 50 kilometres from Juba, the biggest town in the south.

The army spokesman said

Tori, 120 kilometres southeast of Juba, was the only town in the area of operations and other settlements there were just small villages.

He said the armed forces had driven the attacking forces back, especially in the south.

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## 46 Mauritians charged with spying for Baghdad

NOUAKCHOTT (Agencies)

— Forty-six Mauritanian members of groups sympathetic to Baghdad's ruling Bath party were charged Tuesday with spying for a foreign power, justice officials said.

Sixteen other people detained in the reported smashing of an Iraqi spy ring were released during the day, and the future of ten soldiers, including officers, arrested in the swoop last month was still uncertain.

The wave of arrests began Oct. 23, when Mauritania's Interior Minister Mohammad Ould Dah accused the Iraqi regime of maintaining "a secret network (to provide) precise information on strategic positions of the Mauritanian state."

Senior officials in the presidency and the Mauritanian parliament were implicated, according to Mr. Ould Dah, and the discovery of the ring triggered the expulsion of Iraq's ambassador to Mauritania, Anwar Molad Bayan.

Iraq has denied the charges.

Mauritania "has been handsomely paid by those who want to destroy the relations between Arab states,"

and harm the reputation of Iraq," an Iraqi spokesman said.

Mauritania's crackdown on activists suspected of spying for former ally Iraq is the latest indication of the government's desire to move closer to the Western camp, analysts said here Wednesday.

Iraqi-Mauritanian relations reached a peak six years ago when Iraq backed a Mauritanian conflict against neighbouring Senegal.

But since then, Mauritanian President Maouya Ould Taya has become increasingly irritated by the activities of Iraqi diplomats on his territory, preferring to ally his country more with moderate Arab states and even Western powers.

Mauritania has been included in the upcoming conference in Barcelona of European and Mediterranean powers, and has been praised as a "good pupil" by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Traditionally opposed to Israel, Mauritania nevertheless sent its foreign minister to Monday's funeral of assassinated Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

## U.S. representatives extend Palestinian aid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The House of Representatives voted Tuesday to continue financial aid to the Palestinians after a congressman dropped his opposition, citing the assassination of Israel's prime minister.

The vote to temporarily renew the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPFA), which allows for about \$500 million in aid over five years to Palestinian self-government authorities, also would give the Palestine Liberation Organisation Authority to legally maintain an office.

That authority expired after Congress failed to renew the facilitation act last week. The State Department then announced it would shut the office down, a move that sparked protests from Palestinian groups.

The new measure, passed in the House Tuesday evening on a non-controversial "voice" vote, will now have to be reconciled with a similar version that passed the Senate last week, House and Senate aides said.

Under the House version, the Palestinian self-governing authority could receive aid — and legally operate an office

here — through Dec. 31. The Senate version would expire a month earlier, on Dec. 1.

The bill was earlier expected to run into trouble in House, where New York Republican Michael Forbes, backed by a key congressional leader, vowed to fight the measure because of his opposition to the PLO.

But following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv Saturday, Mr. Forbes agreed to wage his battle "at a more appropriate time."

It is unclear exactly how the House version will play out in the Senate, where the proposal to renew the facilitation act, for unrelated reasons, got torpedoed in the first place.

The act suddenly expired last week due to a squabble between the White House and Republican Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Helms blocked a renewal of the act because Democrats refused to grant concessions on his plan to reorganise the State Department — a plan the White House vigorously opposes.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel told Arafat to stay away from Rabin funeral

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat wanted to attend the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin, "my friend and my partner," but Israel asked him to stay away for security reasons, Mr. Arafat said in an interview broadcast Tuesday. Mr. Arafat told CNN's "Larry King Live" that he was sorry not to have gone to Mr. Rabin's funeral on Monday. The funeral was attended by scores of world leaders. Mr. Arafat said he wanted "to have this chance to say to my friend and my partner Prime Minister Rabin: 'farewell.' But for their interior security affairs, they didn't give me this chance." Mr. Arafat said he understood Israel's reasons for suggesting he stay away. "I understood completely," he said. "I know that... after this awful crime, they have some problems.... I was in permanent contact with Mr. Peres and with others, and I understood completely their reasons."

Egyptian gets 12 years for cutting up wife

COPENHAGEN (AP) — An Egyptian man got 12 years in prison Tuesday after being convicted of murdering his Filipina wife in a fit of jealousy, cutting her body into pieces and dropping them into a harbour. Farid Helmy Khalil Rasmu, 49, denied killing his 39-year-old wife last year, and prosecutors conceded they could not prove he had carried out the murder. But they did convince a 12-person jury that Rasmu had chopped up the body, enough for it to find him guilty of murder, a court official said. The woman's name was not disclosed. Prosecutors said Rasmu used a saw to cut off her head and limbs, wrapped them in two plastic garbage bags and threw them into Copenhagen's harbour last year. Her torso was discovered partly burned on a marshy green field in the city. The body parts in plastic bags were found by a canoeist. Experts linked Rasmu to the crime by a saw found in his apartment. Rasmu told the court that the residue on the saw was that of a monkey he had sliced for food. But experts testified that the teeth on a saw fit exactly with the cuts on the body. Rasmu was arrested after the murder on the way to the airport three hours before his plane took off for Cairo. The one-way ticket for Egypt had been bought same day, police said.

Son to collect Balabagan's blood money

DUBAI (AP) — The son of a United Arab Emirates (UAE) man said he planned to visit the court on Thursday to collect \$41,000 in blood money from a young Filipina maid who killed his father. "If it's over there, I'll get it," Farid Al Baloushi told AFP on Wednesday, adding he would give the money to charity or build a mosque in memory of his father, Almas Mohammad Abdulah Al Baloushi. The maid, Sarah Balabagan, stabbed to death Almas Baloushi in July last year but said she had acted in self-defence. An appeals court in the city of Al Ain on Sunday received 150,000 dirhams (\$41,000) cash which had been raised by supporters in the Philippines of the 16-year-old maid, Philippine diplomat Danilo Cruz said. The court sentenced Ms. Balabagan on Oct. 30 to one year in prison and to receive 10 lashes of the whip when she agreed to pay the blood money in exchange for the cuts on the body. Rasmu was arrested after the murder on the way to the airport three hours before his plane took off for Cairo. The one-way ticket for Egypt had been bought same day, police said.

Two burnt in

Two burnt in

U.N. chief's nephew in psychiatric hospital

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — A court ordered the nephew of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to undergo psychiatric monitoring Tuesday after his lawyers said he was schizophrenic. His lawyers apparently wanted to light the 10-year sentence he received in September for smuggling LSD into Egypt. Judge Izzeddin Abdul Sabour ruled that Karim Raouf Ghali, 17, be committed to a psychiatric hospital in Cairo for 45 days to determine his mental condition, judicial sources said. Ghali was arrested in May at his family's villa in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria after two students told police they bought the hallucinogen from him. He received a 10-year sentence in September that the judge described as lenient. Ghali hails from one of Egypt's most prominent Christian families. He is the younger brother of Yousef Boutros Ghali, Egypt's minister of international cooperation.

Backpackers recall travelling with assassin

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Photos of the man who has admitted assassinating Israel's prime minister his home for two Swedes: They recognised their old backpacking friend. "He was such a nice guy," Adrian Nordenborg, 24, was quoted as saying Tuesday by the newspaper expression. He and Tomas Dirsen, 25, said they met Yigal Amir by chance in 1989 aboard a tourist boat in the Greek islands. The Swedish university students travelled with him two more times while backpacking in Greece and Israel. When they first met, Nordenborg said he noticed "this guy lying on his stomach with a strange cap on his head acting strangely." Nordenborg asked what Amir was doing. Amir said it was time for morning prayer. They started talking, took photos and eventually exchanged addresses — customary among students travelling on a low budget. expression published a photo taken by Nordenborg of Amir sitting in a chair smiling happily. Nordenborg said they never discussed religion and that he had no idea Amir held extremist views. Nordenborg said he and Dirsen do not belong to any religious group. The two Swedes contacted Amir during their last visit to Israel, in 1993. He met them in Elat and later gave them a tour of Jerusalem, including the occupied Arab quarter.

Two burnt in

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:30 ... *The Happy Professor*

13:45 ... *Fireman Sam*

14:15 ... *The Hurricanes*

14:30 ... *My Secret Identity*

14:39 ... *The New Leaf* to Beaver

14:45 ... *Gillette World Sport Special*

15:00 ... *White Heat*

15:20 ... *Children's Programme*

15:30 ... *Virginie*

15:39 ... *C'est Votre Vie*

15:45 ... *News in French*

15:45 ... *Magazine — Archimedes*

15:55 ... *Cartoon*

15:59 ... *Car's Computer*

16:00 ... *The Album Show*

21:10 ... *The New Avengers*

21:20 ... *News in English*

21:2

## King's birthday is public holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker announced Wednesday that all government departments and public institutions will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 14, to mark the country's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday. The announcement also said that a committee organising celebrations for the occasion has prepared a programme of several activities and events.

## SSC to raise pensions 10%

AMMAN (J.T.) — Retired citizens covered by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) can expect a 10 per cent increase in their pension next year, according to Minister of Labour Nader Abu Shaer.

The government has decided to raise SSC pensions by 10 per cent starting Jan. 1, 1996. Dr. Abu Shaer announced Wednesday.

The decision, which was taken by the Cabinet in its meeting Saturday evening, also provides for the increase by 10 per cent of the pension of senior citizens whose jobs were terminated due to ill health,

Dr. Abu Shaer added. Speaking to the press, Dr. Abu Shaer said the decision, taken upon a recommendation by the SSC board, was taken to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday.

The measure will benefit those already retired and receiving a pension from the SSC and all future pensioners, provided that the floor of increase in pensions will not drop below JD 15 and will not rise above 50 per cent, according to the minister.

The decision means that the SSC will incur an additional cost of JD 9 to JD 10 million annually to cover this increase, according to the minister.

The minister made it clear that there will be no extra deductions from salaries to cover this amount, and that the new measure will not affect the SSC's investment programme.

SSC Director General Sawsan Toukan announced last month that the corporation has so far invested JD 722.2 million — more than 50 per cent of those funds are deposited in banks, or invested in public shareholding companies and in real estate.

## Prime Minister inspects new facilities at bridges

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday inspected facilities at the King Hussein bridge and the River Jordan and opened a new arrivals' hall to cope with the growing number of visitors coming to Jordan following its signing of a peace treaty with Israel.

Accompanied by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad and other officials, the prime minister toured the new facilities which include air-conditioned halls, customs offices and other utilities of a total area of 3,000 square metres.

Fakhru Iskandar, the bridge police department director, said improvements to services and the addition of the new premises were deemed necessary in view of the growing number of visitors to the Kingdom.

## More rains expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology said Wednesday that a low depression created over southern Turkey and accompanied by a cold air mass will affect Jordan Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, bringing more rain.

A department official told the Jordan Times that temperatures Thursday will rise to a maximum of 13°C, nearly nine degrees below normal and dropping to seven at night.

The official said that the rains of Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning fell on nearly all regions, with Amman receiving a total of 2.8 millimetres.

The rains came as a result of a low depression which was centred over Turkey, with some heavy rain falling mainly in the south.

## Two burnt in car accident on airport road

AMMAN — Two people were burnt to death Tuesday following a road accident at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) highway, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the accident which took place late Monday night near Al Zamil area involved a vehicle which struck the guard rail on the right hand side of the highway.

The impact of the collision ignited a blaze in the vehicle and two of the three men were trapped inside," the CDD official said.

The deceased were identified by the CDD as: Khalid Mahmud Ma'ayah, 33, and Nidal Masri, 30.

All three bodies were taken to Al Bashir Hospital.

An official.

"When we arrived we found two people lying beside the car, the unharmed driver and the badly burnt body of the passenger, he said.

The second victim, the official added, was trapped inside the Saudi plate Mercedes sports car where his charred body was found.

"Preliminary indications of the accident shows that the driver of the vehicle was speeding, lost control of his vehicle and slammed into a trailer that was parked at the right side of the road.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Wednesday declined revealing the cause of the accident.

The deceased were identified by the CDD as: Khalid Mahmud Ma'ayah, 33, and Nidal Masri, 30.

All three bodies were taken to Al Bashir Hospital. An official at the hospital

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## FILM

"Aqui El Que No Corre" at Instituto Cervantes on Thursday at 5:00pm.

the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday and Friday at 6:00pm.

## EXHIBITIONS

• "Suleiman the Magnificent" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Kheire) at Darat Al Funun on Thursday at 5:00pm.

• "The Empire of the Sun" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00pm.

## CONCERT

"Concert by the band of the National Music Conservatory at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00pm.

the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday and Friday at 6:00pm.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

A service of Remembrance at the Church of the Redeemer on Thursday at 6:00pm.

POETRY RECITAL

Recital of poems of the '90s at

## Princess Sarvath inaugurates Learning Difficulties Centre

'Schools urged to refer students with learning difficulties to centre'

By Ghala Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, President of the Young Muslim Women's Association and chairwoman of the Princess Sarvath Community College Board of Trustees, Wednesday inaugurated the new Learning Difficulties Centre at the Princess Sarvath Community College.

The centre, which started its training programme in September, aims at equipping several Ministry of Education teachers with the skills needed to deal with students suffering from learning difficulties.

Talking to reporters after opening the centre, Princess Sarvath stressed the importance of catering for the needs of students with learning difficulties.

It said the centre will also serve as a national testing and evaluation centre, that will eventually be expanded to encompass a regional scope.

The Princess Sarvath Community College has also opened a number of resource rooms in different Ministry of Education schools to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The Princess said that learning difficulties do not impede the students' future performance, emphasising that many of these problems could be overcome.

Pointing out that about 25 per cent of students have some kind of learning difficulties, Princess Sarvath said the long term objectives of the centre are to reach all students in need of

its services in the Kingdom.

In the coming few days the centre will start advising schools that students suffering from learning difficulties should be referred to the centre.

According to a statement

by the centre, "The centre aims to provide qualitative services or students with hidden learning difficulties that impair their expected achievements though they have no auditory, visual or mental problems."

"As long as educators and

parents are unable to detect

these hidden learning difficulties they are prone to labeling the child as being

lazy or even stupid," the

statement added.

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and evaluation centre, that

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Ministry of Education

schools to bridge the gap

between theory and practice.

The resource rooms will

be a training site for the

new centre's nine staff

members as well as offer

help and support to children

suffering from learning

difficulties.

The centre will also

provide training for the

nine members at the

centre.

Ms. Khasawneh and the

other staff received six

months of training in Cana-

da where they were

equipped with the skills

needed to screen, identify,

diagnose and treat children

suffering from learning

difficulties.

She was also briefed on

the translated curricula

designed and prepared by

specialised Canadian

experts and institutions for

training resource room

teachers.

The centre was set up in

cooperation with the Cana-

dian government, CIDA,

the Association of Cana-

dian Community Colleges

and the New Brunswick

Community College.



HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Wednesday greets Jordanian and Canadian officials, and guests after inaugurating the Learning Difficulties Centre at the Princess Sarvath Community College (Petra photo)

## Italian ambassador to open new centre at University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new Documentation Centre of the Italian Language and Culture located at the Italian Teaching Section at the Department of Modern Languages, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jordan will be officially opened by Italy's ambassador to Jordan, Romualdo Bettini, Saturday, according to a press release from the Italian embassy.

According to the reports, the accident which occurred near Hetin Camp involved a pickup and a parked trailer.

The report said that the pickup driver, who was speeding, lost control of his vehicle and slammed into a trailer that was parked at the right side of the road.

The impact of the collision ignited a blaze in the vehicle and two of the three men were trapped inside," the CDD official said.

The deceased were identified by the CDD as: Khalid Mahmud Ma'ayah, 33, and Nidal Masri, 30.

All three bodies were taken to Al Bashir Hospital. An official at the hospital

told the Jordan Times that the sole survivor was discharged from hospital.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's road accidents claimed two more lives in Zarqa, police and CDD reports said.

The second victim, the official added, was trapped inside the Saudi plate Mercedes sports car where his charred body was found.

"Preliminary indications of the accident shows that the driver of the vehicle was speeding, lost control and slammed into the guard rail on the right hand side of the highway.

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Traffic comes to a standstill in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, as traders went on strike in the first ever such nationwide protest. Followers of a Muslim religious leader form a human chain (centre of the road). The protesters were demanding an end to a prolonged political standoff (AFP photo)

### Bangladeshis stage protest over political crisis

DHAKA (R) — Tens of thousands of men and women formed a human chain in Dhaka Wednesday demanding an immediate end to the country's long-running political crisis.

They poured on the streets chanting "no further delay in resolution of problems" and "the crisis has become unbearable", witnesses said.

In another protest, thousand of Dhaka businessmen rallied on the streets to denounce frequent opposition strikes that shut down transport, trade and commerce.

They urged the government to resolve the dispute over opposition demands for new elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The opposition wants Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down and hand power to Chief Justice Abu Taher

Mohammad Afzal, or any neutral person acceptable to all parties.

"However, it does not necessarily mean that Mrs. Khaleda will accept the caretaker demand," one analyst told Reuters.

The protesters Wednesday criticised the opposition's failure to press home their demands from parliament.

Opposition parties, including the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, said they would not only boycott elections planned by Mrs. Khaleda's government but would resist them.

Opposition parties, including the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, said they would not only boycott elections planned by Mrs. Khaleda's government but would resist them.

Time for peace has run out and the government is pushing us towards confrontation," Awami leader Mohammad Nasim said Tuesday.

The BNP says the opposition, fearing defeat in elections due early next year, was pushing the country toward anarchy.

Traffic in the city of nine million became chaotic during the protests which shut down many roads, witnesses said.

### India election chiefs weigh Kashmir poll prospects

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian soldiers and paramilitary troops deployed in the state.

"No civilian should move on that day," said the Islamic Resistance Front, an alliance of three Islamic militant groups. But there were no reports of strike-related violence.

The decision by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet on the weekend to hold the first state assembly elections in eight years has been criticised by national opposition parties and a broad spectrum of Kashmiris.

Separatists called a one-day protest strike Wednesday in the Kashmir Valley, the centre of a five-year-old revolt against Indian rule in which more than 20,000 people have been killed.

Most shops and offices in the summer capital Srinagar shut down for the day and streets were largely deserted.

Ominous warnings were issued by militants, who vowed to step up their armed campaign aimed mainly at thousands of

federal laws encroaching on its autonomy. Mr. Rao also said the state could replace the titles of chief minister and governor with prime minister and president.

Mr. Rao's proposal irked the BJP, whose leader Murli Manohar Joshi called it a "charter for India's Balkanisation".

Mr. Rao appeared to have failed to persuade the state's biggest pro-Indian party, the National Conference, to participate in the polls.

Former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said he would urge party leaders at a two-day meeting starting Wednesday to boycott the polls because Mr. Rao did not offer adequate autonomy.

Mr. Abdullah has been demanding the restoration of a 1952 agreement which gave Jammu and Kashmir control over all areas except defence, foreign affairs and communications.

The Election Commission could have difficulty calling polls if the National Conference joins other parties boycotting elections.

### Rwanda: 300 rebels killed in raid on island

KIGALI (R) — Rwanda's government forces killed some 300 former Rwandan troops and militiamen on an island near Zaire's border in their biggest blow to rebel forces, officials said Tuesday.

They said Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) troops stormed Iwawa Island on Lake Kivu Saturday and fought with Hutu militiamen until overrunning the island Monday night.

"We assaulted the island Saturday. The fighting went on for two days because they were heavily dug in and the terrain was in their favour. They had also booby-trapped many routes on the island," said a spokesman for Rwanda's Defence Ministry.

"Indications so far are that the enemy lost as many as 300 but these are preliminary figures because we are still counting. Most of these were killed on the island during the assault. Others were killed trying to flee the island, others drowned."

Five RPA soldiers were killed and some wounded,

he added. The RPA, dominated by Rwanda's Tutsi minority, seized power in July last year after the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

The state-run Rwandan Press Agency (RPA) quoted military sources on Iwawa as saying more than 300 Hutu former government soldiers and militiamen who escaped to Zaire and Tanzania last year.

ARP quoted some of the prisoners as saying they had been staying on the island for the last two months and it was being used for training and as a base for infiltration into Rwanda.

He said heavy machine-guns, anti-tank cannons, anti-aircraft guns were captured on Iwawa, 15 kilometres from mainland Rwanda. He said many of the weapons were brand new and had not yet been assembled.

RPA troops have massacred hundreds of Hutu civilians this year but government officials said such incidents were either the work of renegades or retaliation for attacks by Hutu rebels.

## Sri Lanka Tamil groups urge immediate peace talks

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Moderate Tamil groups called for an immediate ceasefire in Sri Lanka's separatist war Wednesday and said the exodus of refugees from the rebel-held north was out of control and could only be compared to that of mines by fleeing rebels.

The group of nine Tamil unions and parties also called for the immediate "commencement of a political process for a negotiated settlement."

"It is our considered view that bombing and shelling of areas of high civilian concentration will drive the people away from their homes," it said.

"The loss of life has been unprecedentedly heavy among the civilians not to mention the high toll among the...militants as well as security personnel," the groups said in a statement, stressing that fighting was reaching a climax in the north.

"The exodus is uncontrollable," the statement said. "The fleeing of nearly half a million people is an index of the terror that has gripped them. The refugee problem is unmanageable...People are facing starvation."

It said there was an acute shortage of infants' milk and no antibiotics or medicine. "The situation can only be compared to that of Bosnia," it said.

Residents fleeing the north told Reuters in the central town of Vavuniya there was a line a mile long outside the hospital at Chavakachcheri, a refugee destination south of Jaffna lagoon, with people suffering sores, diarrhoea and fever.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are fighting for a homeland in the north and east in a war which began in 1983. Government troops are now massed in the northern Jaffna peninsula for an expected assault on Jaffna town.

Government troops are continuing to "consolidate in newly captured areas" outside Jaffna town, believed to have been laced

with mines by fleeing rebels.

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security personnel," the

groups said in a statement, stressing that fighting was

reaching a climax in the

north.

"Our guerrilla movement

cannot be crushed in con-

ventional battle," said Anton Balasingham, the Tigers' spokesman. "The

Lankan forces can take over

the territory. But they can-

not hold on. We'll strike

back."

Western military analysts

agree the Tigers are wound-

ed, but not so easily de-

stroyed.

Their fighting strength is

estimated to be 10,000-15,000 men and women.

Even if they lose thousands

of dead and wounded, they

remain strong enough to

mount effective terrorist

and hit-and-run campaigns,

diplomatic analysis said on

condition of anonymity.

The army's battlefield

success on the road to Jaffna

has surprised many Sri

Lankans. But the victory

could have unanticipated

consequences.

The government had por-

trayed the battle for Jaffna

as a struggle to liberate one

of Sri Lanka's most historic

and important cities. But up

to 500,000 Tamils fled the

advancing army.

Rather than end the war

and heal the ethnic divide,

some analysts see the rift

deepening.

Tamils in the south, who

abandoned the indepen-

dence struggle years ago

and joined mainstream

politics, are worried about

the rout of their kinsmen and

the hardship inflicted on

civilians.

"There is bitterness not

only in the north, but all

over the country," said Neelan Tiruchelvam, director

of the International

Centre for Ethnic Studies in

Colombo, the Sri Lankan

capital. "Ethnic relations

are deteriorating."

### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANISATION REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST CORRECTION

The Chairman of the Board of the Modern American School ran an advertisement in the November 5, 1995 issue of 'Al-Rai' and the November 6, 1995 issue of 'El-Dustour' which stated that they had joined the International Baccalaureate Organisation as Members, and chosen to introduce the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme, both accredited and affiliated with the IBO Headquarters in Geneva ..... starting as of next year 1996/97". This public announcement followed a circular to the same effect that was sent to parents of students in the school.

The IBO would like to state that the Modern American School, which has recently been known as the Modern Education School, has merely contacted the IBO to express an interest in the IB programme and request information and an application form. While the IBO welcomes applications and the introduction of the IB into both national and international schools in all parts of the world, an application does not in itself guarantee or automatically mean acceptance to teach the IB. There is an established procedure to be followed and a set of criteria and conditions to be met and fulfilled before acceptance is granted, including an assessment by the IBO staff responsible for the region in question. This process is long, rigorous and demanding and applications are in fact refused each year.

Therefore, and until approval is obtained, publicity must clearly state that approval to teach the IB is being sought and not that it will be taught. The use of the IB logo - or name - or its incorporation into any private logo without prior permission also violates international law. Indeed, the IBO does not view favourably applications from schools that purport to offer IB prior to official approval from the IBO office in Geneva.

قام رئيس مجلس ادارة المدرسة الامريكية الحديثة بوضع اعلان في العدد الصادر يوم ٥/١١/١٩٩٥ من جريدة الراي ، والعدد الصادر يوم ٦/١١/١٩٩٥ من جريدة الدستور ينص فيه على ان المدرسة انضمت الى اسرة البكالوريا الدولية وسيدة تقدير برنامج البكالوريا الدولية في المدرسة في العام الدراسي ٩٦/٩٧ وكانت هذه الاعلانات قد

سبقها مذكرة تم تعميمها على اهالي طلبة المدرسة تعلمهم فيها بهذا الخبر.

وقد منظمة البكالوريا الدولية ان تعلن ان المدرسة ال

## Jordan Times

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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## Settlement with justice

THE SUBJECT of war crimes is naturally taking a centre stage in the ongoing peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, among Balkan leaders. The Bosnian government is insisting that Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic be handed over to the war crimes international tribunal in the Hague as part of the overall settlement which is in the making. The two Bosnian Serb leaders have been indicted by the tribunal and are awaiting trial if they can ever be extradited, something which does not seem to be in the cards for the time being.

This is taking place amidst growing optimism that the U.S.-brokered peace negotiations have reached a critical point and could be on the verge of attaining meaningful progress on a blueprint for peace in former Yugoslavia.

There is no doubt that all people implicated in the perpetration of war crimes or crimes against humanity in Bosnia should be brought to justice. All war criminals connected with acts of genocide committed in Bosnia should be apprehended or surrendered to the appropriate international tribunal assembled for this particular purpose in the Hague for a speedy trial. This is indeed a high priority issue that no nation, including the three negotiating parties in Dayton, should ignore.

We all know that such noble and legal obligation cannot be met by suspending the political talks on a general framework for peace in the Balkan region or by preventing their successful resolution, till all those charged with war crimes are brought to justice. The Serb negotiators are internationally obligated to facilitate the trial of their countrymen implicated in war crimes. Failing to do so would blemish forever the image and reputation of the Serbian nation. But while a link must be maintained between a final settlement and the prosecution of all war criminals, peace talks between the parties under the auspices of Washington should proceed with full speed. This, for now, is the answer.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Wednesday that the outcome of a survey conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies in the University of Jordan about prospects for some kind of union between Jordan and the Palestinian territories reflects the tendency of people on both sides of the river to forge unity that would best safeguard their interests. Forty-five years ago the people of the West Bank asked the late King Abdullah for merger with the Kingdom, and the recent survey conducted simultaneously in the West Bank and Jordan gives clear indication that there is a great popular enthusiasm towards union, said Mufid Nahleh. Referring to sceptics who fear that a union could mean creating a substitute homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan, the writer said this concept is unrealistic any more, now that Jordan and Israel have signed a peace treaty defining international boundaries between them and in the light of Israel's gradual withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said any form of unity between the two people can open up great opportunities for a prosperous future for them, and can further enhance peace and stability for all countries in the region.

IN THE view of Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, Israel's Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres has a good opportunity to breathe life into the stalled Israeli-Syrian negotiations and to complete Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territory in the coming few months. In the light of the overwhelming international and regional backing for the Labour-led Israeli government's drive for peace, Mr. Peres has a chance to prove to the Israeli electorate that the Labour Party has fulfilled its promises to them about peace with the Arabs, and so secure victory in the 1996 parliamentary elections, said the writer. It is quite known that Mr. Peres is less stringent in dealing with the Arab countries and less influenced by the military than his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin. Accordingly, Mr. Peres could be more flexible in security and military matters with regard to Syria, said the writer. Without Rabin, said the writer, Mr. Peres will have a free hand to conduct negotiations with Damascus on the one hand and to ensure a smooth Israeli military pull out from Palestinian towns on the other.

## The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

## After Rabin, more involvement by the Israeli public

MUCH HAS already been said or written about Yitzhak Rabin and the implications of his untimely demise, and much will be said and written yet. Over the past few days, several people have dwelt on his exceptional personal attributes and achievements, on his qualifications as a leader and peacemaker, on the void he has left in Israel's political scene, on the likely impact of his death on the direction and shape of future Israeli politics and on the peace process, on the meaning of the assassination act within the context of Israeli society, on the noticeable growth, escalation and spread of Jewish violence and terrorism, and so forth. Though much of what is said about the possible consequences of Rabin's death remains in the realm of conjecture or speculation, the issues themselves are legitimate to raise. Indeed, Rabin's death (no matter how one interprets it) has left many in the region sad, angry and (above all) concerned.

One matter of great concern has to do with the position of the Israeli public vis-à-vis the peace process in the days ahead. I say the Israeli "public" because much depends on what it may or may not do in the days to come, whether early elections are or are not held.

The vast majority of those commenting on Rabin's death and all of the leaders and persons speaking at his funeral have expressed their unwavering commitment to the cause of peace and the faith and hope that Israel will continue in Rabin's path.

Peace, they believe, is a need and necessity for all the peoples of the region, and there is no going back now. They are absolutely correct. Life without peace in our part of the world is in nobody's interest, apart, that is, from the opportunists who have thrived long on the no-war, no-peace situation, the foolish and misguided who revel in their foolishness and ignorance, and the forces of "darkness" and terror.

Such forces are worrisome. Beneath the overt sense of optimism and faith in the continuity of the peace process in nearly all the significant comments and speeches since Rabin's death lurks a covert (but real) sense of anxiety about the future. Essentially, the anxiety stems not just from the fear of the outcome of early elections (i.e. the Likud may come to power) or the void Rabin has left behind (i.e. will Shimon Peres be carrying the torch as determinedly and ably?) but also from the alarmingly increasing presence and power of Israeli hardliners, extremists and terrorists.

Over the past few years, the number of those in Israel

speaking (and working) against peace and for confiscation of Palestinian and Arab land and erection of various types of permanent Israeli projects in occupied Arab territories (settlements as well as other projects) has immensely increased. And so has the number of those Israelis actively involved in acts of provocation, violence and terror. Whether Yigal Amir has or has not received "his orders from God," whether he has or has not plotted the act alone or with others, or whether there will not be more assassination attempts in store, the fact remains that Yigal Amir's literal and symbolic act is a culmination of a phenomenon which has emerged, thrived and prospered in the open. Timothy MacVey and the radical rightist groups in America may have come as a surprise to the American public (even though the FBI, we are told, has been aware of the presence of some serious underground rightist activities); Yigal Amir's assassination of Rabin may have also come as a total surprise to the Israeli public and the Israeli authorities (in great part because they have not thought it possible for Israelis to inflict acts of violence on other Israelis). But Yigal Amir as an individual, an active member of the forces of "darkness" and "terror," and a phenomenon he has been present and visible for sometime. Those, like Yigal Amir, who refuse to respect, see and recognise the presence and rights of Palestinians and Arabs in Palestine and outside it and have no second thoughts about violating the right of Palestinians to property and life will naturally have no second thoughts (and no regrets) about inflicting violence on fellow Israelis who oppose their views. This is one of the hard realities which Israel has to come to terms with in the aftermath of Rabin's tragic death.

What is equally worrying is the untimely absence (at least the week presence) of peace supporters within the Israeli public. There was a time, paradoxically before the peace process was launched in Madrid 1990, when peace advocates in Israel asserted their position (through rallies, marches, demonstrations, sit-ins, etc) on almost a daily basis. Since Madrid, however, we have not (ironically) seen much of the peace supporters, lovers and enthusiasts.

Have they gotten bored? Have they changed their mind about peace? The visible presence of the advocates of peace within the Israeli public has been lacking in force and vigour during those times when it is most needed, i.e. since the launching of the peace process in Madrid, since Oslo, and at the present moment.

The question here is not whether Israel wants peace or not. Obviously, and for reasons which we all know, it does. The mere fact that Rabin was shot at the end of a spectacular peace rally is indicative of Israel's willingness and commitment to the establishment of peace.

Two points, however, ought to be stressed here. Firstly, had peace advocates and supporters in Israel been more active, involved and assertive, the hardliners, extremists and terrorists would not have been so daring, so powerful and so visible. Clearly, the more passive the peace advocates are, the more active the hardliners. In this sense, have not Rabin and Peres been somewhat abandoned, and has not their position been somewhat weakened in light of the growing opposition and extremism which have been given ample room to move, work and manoeuvre freely?

Secondly, had peace advocates and supporters been more active, involved and assertive, the peace process (especially with respect to its Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks) would have moved a lot more comfortably, smoothly and speedily. The closer we get in realising the aims and objectives of comprehensive peace, the less chance there is for the sceptics, cynics, rejectionists, extremists and nihilists on both sides to survive, strengthen and prosper.

Now that Rabin is gone (an event which may or may not have been averted) what ought that portion of the Israeli public which believes in peace to do? The answer to this rhetorical question is obvious: Active support, direct involvement and massive pressure for speedy progress in the peace process. Let those who have been silent during the past few years, speak loudly now. The times are too precious, crucial and critical to spend procrastinating, being too careful and cautious, or being aloof; and the costs are heavy.

The way I see it, we have one of three choices: either we work harder to bring about peace as smoothly as possible, and thus create the atmosphere in which the extremists and hardliners will slowly but steadily dissolve and disappear; abandon the peace option and let the hardliners and extremists on both sides fight it out and destroy us in the process; or continue to pussyfoot, procrastinate and waste time, and thus allow extremists and hardliners to commit acts such as that committed against Rabin. I have faith that the vast majority opts for the first choice. To this latter end, what is needed now is more real involvement.

## Israeli society faces further polarisation

By G.H. Jansen

NOW THAT the initial shock and trauma of the killing of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has faded, along with the laundry publicity-hype, it becomes possible to step back to assess the man and his legacy he left to his successor Shimon Peres.

It is normal for grave-side eulogies to be a string of pious platitudes but they should not represent the man himself, as has happened with Mr. Rabin. It would be shameful to denigrate the memory of a dead man just for the sake of "debunking" thought that can be scandalous fun. But it is a duty to get that memory right.

Thus, it has been said that Mr. Rabin was a "great man," a "great soldier" and a "man of vision." He was none of these. His "greatness" as an individual depended on his evaluation in the two other spheres.

As a soldier he was a competent and experienced commander but is not to be compared with the innovative tacticians like Yigal Amir or Ariel Sharon. And at the climax of his military

career, when he was chief-of-staff, he failed dismally because in the tense two weeks just before the June 1967 war, which enabled Israel to occupy the West Bank, and was unable to command or issue orders. He was relieved of his command for the crucial first week of the war and his place was taken by Ezer Weizman, then the airforce and intelligence chief (the Israeli airforce, trained by Mr. Weizman, struck first and won the war in its first few hours. Moshe Dayan was also brought in as minister of defence to supervise the war efforts).

Mr. Rabin's reputation as a man of vision cannot survive these acts of shortsighted folly on recall. The setting up of the so-called "Security Zone" in South Lebanon: his permitting Jewish settlers to implant themselves in the centre of Hebron and in nearby Kiryat Arba.

Mr. Rabin was a most reluctant and grudging peacemaker and was pulled into the peace process by Mr. Peres and the young Labour Party leaders such as Yossi Beilin, now minister for science and technol-

ogy. What then was Mr. Rabin's contribution to Israel and the peace process? Simply this — that once he realised that the peace process was good and helpful for Israel, he lent it his "security credentials" that is his military credentials. So that if he told his people that a certain risk had to be taken for peace he could persuade most or at least a majority of his people to take that risk.

Unfortunately, Shimon Peres has no military credentials because he has never worn uniform professionally (except perhaps for brief periods of reserve service). And though as a civilian bureaucrat, Mr. Peres did much to build up the formidable Israeli military machine, his lack of military service is an irreducible draw back, even a defect, especially in a heavily militarised, garrison state like Israel. And nothing can be done to make up for that defect at this stage.

What make Mr. Peres' task more difficult is the new and not yet apparent fact that the assassination itself has changed the quality of the perception of Israel by itself and by

others.

Israel has shown itself to be not a European-type state but a Levantine state, just like its neighbours. Violent, turbulent, undisciplined and faction-ridden.

The killing has turned over the Israeli stone and revealed its grimy underside as a racially arrogant state.

Israel cannot afford to:

accommodate passively:

its militia of religious fanatics because they are too challenging and dangerous.

And in any case they will challenge the government at the next election in 1996.

So how can the new prime minister deal with and curb the right which has now shown that it can take direct and deadly action?

The fact that some Israeli schools have asked the ministry of education for counselling on how to handle students who are not mourning Mr. Rabin's killing right but that would involve the complete secularisation of the schools which the right and the powerful Rabin would not allow to happen — their opponents' defeat.

What is being said that Mr. Peres' problems are the

peace process and relations with Syria and so on and so forth. Those are the problems of yesterday, and perhaps of today, but for

Mr. Peres tomorrow's problem is what to do about the fissured society of the Jewish state, a problem which can only get worse.

Hopeful talk that Mr. Rabin's killing will reconcile the two sections within Israeli society is liberal sentimentality; it is more likely to sharpen the division for as the killer has said, "We must be cold headed." The right, temporarily embarrassed by accusations that it produced the climate of hate that made the killing feasible, has cleverly finesed the issue by saying that it regrets the death of the man Yitzhak Rabin while remaining opposed to the policies of Mr. Rabin the politician. U.S. President Bill Clinton has seen the danger of a divided Israel and in his funeral oration pleaded fervently with Israelis not to fight and kill each other.

But the right will be even more opposed to the policies of Shimon Peres who is far more dovish than Mr. Rabin and when it comes to Mr. Peres agreeing to leave the occupied Golan to achieve peace with Syria, half of Israel will simply not obey. The entire peace process could collapse.

## The spread of Kurdish nationalism: A new stage in its development

By Robert Olson

THE ENGAGEMENT of Abdullah Ocalan's PKK forces with those of Mas'ud Barzani's KDP peshmerga on Aug. 25 marks a new stage in the development and spread of Kurdish nationalism. Although the PKK and KDP have fought before, notably in 1992, the combat that commenced on Aug. 25 is different. Ocalan's decision to attack the KDP, unlike the earlier conflicts that were largely for tactical military purposes, was an explicit political challenge to the KDP and indirectly to the PUK, the chief Kurdish factions in northern Iraq.

As Ocalan himself stated, the first Dergi conference in early August was intended not only to negotiate differences between the KDP and the PUK, but "to strangle" the PKK; a strangulation, Ocalan made clear, that was to be executed by the U.S., Europe, Turkey, the KDP and PUK. To accept Ocalan's demand would mean that the PKK would become a de jure part of the Iraqi Kurdish nationalist movement in Turkey. Either development would reduce the almost exclusive dominance that they have exercised over Kurdish politics in Iraq since World War II.

The KDP and PUK also know that such developments are opposed to U.S., European and Turkish policies (in the case of Turkey unwillingly) to develop Kurdish autonomy in northern Iraq. The American, European and Turkish support for such autonomy is

conditioned on the premise that the KDP and PUK will not support the PKK or other Kurdish nationalist organisations in Turkey.

The PKK's demand to be included in the reconstituted regional assembly is especially threatening to the KDP for two major reasons. One, the PKK and the KDP are territorially contiguous and, two, both organisations are rivals for the mostly Kumanji-speakers of the territories they control.

The Iraq-Turkey international border of 1925 is of little importance in this context. The PKK's demand effectively ignores this border and would impact directly on the KDP's ability to maintain control over the territory it now holds.

The PUK is less directly threatened; its territory is not contiguous with that of the PKK and the territory it controls is inhabited largely by Sorani-speakers.

Ocalan's demand for inclusion in the Kurdish Regional Government is in direct opposition to U.S., European and Turkish policies. For the Americans and Europeans, it upsets their efforts to attempt to create a weak Iraq, shorn of one third of its former national territory and acquiescent to Saudi Arabia, Europe and the U.S. Such an Iraq would also meet Israeli requirements for a new Middle East. Second, the inclusion of the PKK in the

set-up would complicate further European and U.S. relations with Turkey. If they do, they recognise, quite rightly, that their legitimacy is bound to diminish.

The PKK has had a programme of systematically propagandising among the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds of northern Iraq, especially in areas where they had or have been able to establish camps, since 1991 when, as a result of the Gulf war, they were able to take advantage of the collapse of the Iraqi state's security system.

The attempt of the PKK to establish grassroots legitimacy among the Kurds of northern Iraq is a direct challenge and threat to the PUK and KDP, especially the latter.

The PKK challenge to the KDP in northern Iraq also means that the U.S. and Europe must continue to support, militarily and financially, Turkey's harsh and brutal war against the PKK in southeast Turkey and, if recent reports are correct, against the PKK's attempts to establish their organisation in Hatay. It goes without saying that the Americans and Europeans will pursue such policies, for the reasons mentioned above, all the while decrying Turkey's "human rights abuses" against the Kurds within Turkey and now, ironically, in northern Iraq as a result of the large Turkish military incursions in March and July. Several

powerful Kurdish organisations in the northern Iraqi regional parliament was a pipedream; they (the PKK) are not from us. For them to want to have a place in our parliament is laughable.

Robert Olson is professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic History at the University of Kentucky. The above article is reprinted from Middle East International.

These are words used by Tabatabai's work. The descriptions are somewhat cliched.



## Society on the Move

## The chain of cooperation links far and wide

**Ambassador Nasouh Majali**, who returned from his post in Toronto, Canada, in mid-September will soon head for Damascus as ambassador plenipotentiary to Syria. The former minister of information and culture had earlier served as ambassador to Iraq. Although it is true that Damascus brings him much closer to home than Toronto, Mr. Majali says he is looking forward to his new assignment because "I think Syria is a very important neighbour." Mr. Majali will leave for Syria within two weeks with his wife Haya and their two younger children. He was accorded a nice send-off on Tuesday evening when a huge crowd of ministers, parliamentarians and friends, including a couple of former prime ministers (Zeid Rifai and Abdul Salam Majali), turned up at a farewell dinner he hosted on the occasion of his taking up his new duties. Mr. Majali had served as minister of information in the first Cabinet of Sharif Zeid in 1989 and before that as advisor at the Royal Court, having headed the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation for a few years. To this day, Mr. Majali maintains good links with the media, particularly by continuing to contribute occasional articles to Jordanian newspapers on Arab issues.

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**THE END OF A DOBERS DECADE:** Hubert Dobers is leaving his Amman-based post as representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) in Jordan, the autonomous occupied territories of Palestine, and Lebanon. The KAF, representing the Christian Democratic Union, is one of the political foundations in Germany. The 65-year-old Dobers came to Jordan only three years before the turning point events of 1989 and the country's lunge into the democratic march. Since then he has worked on supporting several projects including a series of seminars in the field of political education: "Democracy and the Rule of Law," with the active participation of HRH Crown

Prince Hassan; seminars on political parties for the improvement of the parliamentary work in Jordan, in cooperation with Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre; a seminar on the role of the media, in cooperation with the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan; and a conference on the role of women in the democratic process of Jordan in cooperation with the General Federation of Jordanian Women. The former lawyer and judge spent nine years working on international cooperation in Africa, first for the German Volunteer Service, later with KAF. From 1979 until his arrival in Jordan he was responsible for cooperation with the Arab World at the KAF head office in St. Augustin, Germany. Mr. Dobers and his wife Jacqueline say that it is with mixed feelings they leave Jordan, "which in more than nine years and nine months, we have come to love dearly." The couple are hosting a reception next Wednesday evening at the Regency Palace Hotel to say good-bye to their friends and associates in Jordan and also to introduce Olaf Kündgen who will succeed Mr. Dobers as of Dec. 1. Mr. Kündgen, who is single and will turn 34 this month, has a masters in Islamic Studies from the Freie Universität in Berlin. Before coming to Amman he spent two years as an assistant to the KAF in Cairo. He speaks English, French and Arabic, wrote his masters thesis on Islamic penal law in Sudan, and may prove to be somewhat of a culinary artist as well for having worked as a cook in New York and Los Angeles in his early 20s. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation may soon have company as we have learned that plans are under way to open an office in Amman of the Hans Seidel Foundation, the political foundation of the Christian Socialist Union of Germany. The work of this institution in Jordan, pending Ministry of Social Development approval, will focus on vocational training of experts. Farewell, Herr und Frau Dobers, and Wilkommen Kündgen.

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**GOING OUT WITH FLAIR:** Well under way are receptions and dinners bidding farewell to Italian Ambassador Romualdo Bettini and his wife Amparo who are returning to Rome where Dr. Bettini will take on his new post as deputy chief of protocol of the Italian government. On the lists of hosts is Mrs. Hind Sherif Nasser who is organising a reception on Saturday at her new Jordanian arts and crafts centre, called Artisan. There Mrs. Nasser is arranging for a recital by musicians from the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation to thank Dr. Bettini for his continuous support of projects that keep alive the special talents and crafts of the Jordanian people. Mrs. Nasser describes her private venture as a place to find arts and craft for personal and home use. She also says that it will be open to innovative ideas of local artists and artisans. Another event includes a dancing party where the dress code/colour is red. Now, that's flair with a flare.

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**SHARING IN THE FESTIVITIES:** Starting Saturday, the Embassy of Pakistan will host several major events meant to participate in Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, says Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi. Under the patronage of HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, the Royal Society of Fine Arts in cooperation with the Pakistan National Council of Arts will present a paintings and photographs exhibition from Nov. 11-25 at the National Gallery of Fine Arts. The exhibition, entitled "Pakistani women of substance in paintings and photographs," consists of more than 70 paintings by contemporary women painters of Pakistan and 25-30 photographs of women's activities all over the state of Pakistan. On Nov. 12 at 4:30 p.m. Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania will inaugurate a single-country trade fair under the theme, "Made in Pakistan," at Al Bassam Exhibition Centre of King Abdullah Gardens. The fair will be the first single-country exhibition from Pakistan in

Jordan and will consist of Pakistani export products from 40 major companies. And the items will be available for sale. Again under the patronage of Princess Sarvath, a performance of Pakistani folk dances, classical dances and instrumental music will be staged at the Royal Cultural Centre on Nov. 17, 18 and 20. And concluding the two weeks of events will be a display of Pakistani ladies' jackets at the Marriott Hotel arranged by the House & Garden Club of Jordan.

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**DESERVING MENTION:** Not related to the plans of the embassy but certainly Pakistan-related is another letter to the editor, among the few others that have come in to the paper, congratulating the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary. We thought that publishing all the letters we actually did receive would be perceived as overly basking in our own glory, but we are so moved by many of those who took the time to write to us that we could not resist acknowledging their salutations. The three letters we selected highlights were signed by Zaid Ahmad Muhaissen, president of the Pakistan Graduates Club in Jordan, Fayed Abu-Enein, general manager of the Bank of Jordan, and Dr. Salah Salah and family. In his letter, Dr. Salah, who is an old friend of the newspaper, said "My family and myself are now almost 17 years in Jordan. The single most consistent daily requirement of value was and is the Jordan Times." And Mr. Abu-Enein wrote "The dedicated efforts you put in covering topics of real interest to the readers in an objective manner as well as your distinguished journalistic performance are highly commendable and appreciated." Perhaps it's time to consider a "Friends of the Jordan Times Society."

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Fashion's new romantic Galliano shakes up Givenchy

By Lee Yanowitch  
Reuter

De Givenchy, who stepped down after 40 years at the top of the profession.

A few days after the summer ready-to-wear shows, Galliano's showroom, in a dusty alley next to the Bastille Opera, is buzzing with buyers and journalists. A model listlessly emerges from behind a curtain in one of his stunning outfits.

The dresses are supposed to make you want to dream, to dance," he sighs.

The draped neckline of one Belle Epoque dress curves upwards to melt into a wide-brimmed hat — there is no separation between the two. On a bias-cut gown — Galliano's tour de force — layers of smoky chiffon converge at the bust, of all places, and swirl into an orchid. Nothing is tacked on. The dress and decoration are all one piece. Some of the clothes are

actually couture — sewn entirely by hand and impossible to reproduce in a factory. The motif, on a grandiose, seamless black ballgown is not printed but stitched in another fabric, right down to the veins on each leaf.

The technique is mind-boggling. "It's passion. Blood, sweat and tears," he giggles. "Sometimes I cry."

A lot of ink has been expended on Galliano's lifestyle. The fashion press talks of his exuberant nightlife, unpredictability and instability, and worries about whether he'll have the discipline to last at Givenchy. This exasperates him.

"I do love going out. I work hard and I play hard. Music, dance, film — they're all part of my inspiration. I think the people at Givenchy would be worried if I stopped," he says. "They should just come and see the clothes," he adds, lighting a cigarette with quick, jerky gestures. "Is this a collection by someone who is undisciplined? Just let me do it."

Indeed, Galliano asked Givenchy President Richard Simonin if he should cut his hair. "Absolutely not," Simonin replied.

But the devilish appearance is just the outer shell of a sensitive, fragile interior. "I'm deeply religious. Roman Catholic. I pray to God every night and every morning. God gives me strength," he says.

It was Bernard Arnault, chairman of Givenchy's owner, French luxury giant LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, who picked Galliano. With Christian Lacroix, Arnault has two of fashion's most gifted young

designers.

He seems the polar opposite of Givenchy, whose classic designs were most at home on a conservative matronly clientele.

Arnault chose Galliano to create a stir and the young designer is working hard to prove himself reliable. Last season he was among the first to deliver department store orders.

Galliano tells the story of his spring-summer 1996 collection — there is always a story — beginning with a boat full of schoolgirls out at sea which starts to sink.

"It's about unconscious beauty — a girly version of lord of the flies. These girls swim to safety in their school uniforms and Sunday best," he says. Hence the rattlesnake necklaces and Indian feathers strung on a choirboy's robe.

When the girls are rescued from the deserted island, one of them is adopted by Maria Cassati, the muse of the 19th-century Italian painter Boldini, who sends her to the Paris conservatory, where she becomes a ballerina.

"Strong," he says of the woman he dresses. "In control of her own destiny. And romantic."

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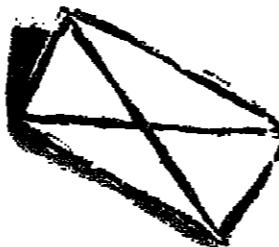
When the girls are rescued from the deserted island, one of them is adopted by Maria Cassati, the muse of the 19th-century Italian painter Boldini, who sends her to the Paris conservatory, where she becomes a ballerina.

"Strong," he says of the woman he dresses. "In control of her own destiny. And romantic."

Galliano tells the story of his spring-summer 1996



# Arts & Fashion



Jordan Times, Thursday, November 9, 1995

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## Beatles legacy lasting a lifetime

By David Bauder  
The Associated Press

It's hard to imagine that the Beatles were once considered dangerous.

The long hair, the "yeah-yeah's," the drugs, the sonnets of albums in Alabama because John Lennon once said they were more popular than Jesus Christ, led many to believe the Beatles were a sure sign that civilization was going down the drain.

Today they are cultural icons, worshipped as fervently — if not as peculiarly — as Elvis Presley.

And, most unexpectedly, they're back.

The three surviving ex-Beatles have collaborated on the most intense self-examination since their 1970 breakup. A six-hour TV documentary will air later this month, quickly followed by the release of three separate two-CD packages of rare recordings from studio vaults.

They include the closest thing we'll get to a reunion: Two songs left behind by the late Lennon polished into "new" Beatles songs in the studio by Paul McCartney, George

Harrison and Ringo Starr.

The Beatles never truly left, in terms of the millions of people who continue to be fascinated by them and the long shadow their influence still casts on rock 'n' roll.

Catch a Beatles song on the radio and the words come instantly to mind, even if it's been years since you've heard them. Yesterday, Help Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds. Get Back. Something. Hey Jude.

"They represent so many different things," said Mark Lewisohn, author of six books on the Beatles. "For some, they represent the epitome, the best of pop music. For others, they represent growing up in the '60s. For me, it all comes down to music at the end of the day. I don't think we would be talking about them so much if it wasn't for the fact that their music was, and still is, quite wonderful."

So much in today's popular music landscape can be traced, at least in part, to the work of the Beatles: performers who write their own material, musicians who use the studio as creative can-

vases, concerts in baseball stadiums, videos to promote new songs.

Blame or credit them, even, for Michael Bolton's flowing locks. The singer said he first grew his hair long because the Beatles made it cool.

The Beatles' first American appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, on Feb. 9, 1964, may have done more to guide future careers than a year's worth of talking by school guidance counselors.

"When I saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, I looked at them and said, 'That's it. That's what I want to do,'" recalled singer Billy Joel, then a teenager on Long Island.

He wasn't alone, Natalie Cole begged her bemused dad, Nat "King" Cole, for Beatles records. Members of the rock band Genesis said the band convinced them that they could be performers, not just songwriters.

Teenager Declan MacManus was thrilled when producer George Martin said another writer's song, How Do You Do It, should be their first single. They preferred their own songs, even though their writing hadn't progressed beyond the simplicity of Love Me Do and Please Please Me.

The rapid advancement of their writing proved those instincts correct, and the Beatles raised songwriting to new heights in rock 'n' roll. Because, before the Beatles and Bob Dylan, it was rare for performers to write their own material. Today, the opposite is true.

"They really established the paradigm of the self-contained group — the group that played its own instruments, wrote its own songs, controlled its own artistic destiny and controlled its own sort of musical packaging," said Robert Palmer, author of the new book, Rock 'N' Roll — An Unruly History.

The Lennon-McCartney songwriting team was a perfect blend of rock 'n' roll energy (John) and classic pop smarts (Paul), he said.

Echoes of their melodic style can be heard throughout almost all of today's guitar-based rock 'n' roll: It's beneath the punk energy of Green Day, the distorted guitars of Nirvana and the bittersweet tunes of the Gin Blossoms. "Beatlesque" is a favourite adjective for critics.

England's hottest new bands, Oasis and Blur, have a "rivalry" that's been compared to the Beatles and Rolling Stones but they agree on one thing: Their debt to the Beatles. Oasis even named a song, Wonderwall, after an obscure Harrison solo album.

"It's no longer up to say you like the Beatles or that they've influenced you," author Lewisohn said. "As a matter of fact, it's

songs with Paul McCartney. The influence endures.

Tanya Donelly of the Alternative Band Belly knew she wanted to play rock 'n' roll when she saw the movie Help on her 14th birthday. It was a movie made before she was born.

The lads from Liverpool even had an influence on heavy metal. "The Beatles were the main reason I wanted to do this," says Charlie Benante, drummer-guitarist-songwriter for Anthrax, who heard his first Beatles song when he was about 2 years old. "I absorbed so much when I was younger and the Beatles were probably the catalyst.

"When I was around 3, almost 4, my mother took me to see A Hard Day's Night and Help she said I sat through it — she had to sit there twice, because I had to see it again. So I guess that's how much they influenced me."

The precocious young Beatles were angry when producer George Martin said another writer's song, How Do You Do It, should be their first single. They preferred their own songs, even though their writing hadn't progressed beyond the simplicity of Love Me Do and Please Please Me.

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because it was impossible to find an interview in 1963 or 1964 where their music was taken seriously. That all changed with the release of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band in 1967. Rock 'n' roll was taken seriously as an art form — and the summer of love found its anthem.

Lewisohn's meticulous tome, The Complete Beatles Chronicle, takes 365 pages to detail the band's career day-by-day: which songs they recorded, where they performed, what interviews they gave.

Still, Lewisohn gets dozens of letters from fans who said it wasn't enough. Please give us more.

Even mildly critical remarks bring out fiercely defensive fans. Palmer is still getting flak for the suggestion he recently produced, that maybe rock 'n' roll music didn't need to be "saved" by the Beatles.

Sgt. Pepper sold 2.5 million records in its first three months and stayed on the charts for a staggering 113 weeks.

Today, rock music has its own hall of fame (with the Beatles, of course, as mem-

bers), it's the subject of university courses and the latest albums are covered exhaustively in newspapers, magazines and on-line.

And it seems no information is too trivial about the Beatles. Most music sections in book stores have more works on the Beatles than any other artist.

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So the Beatles and their

representatives have ready

a marketing blitz that may

make hypemeister Michael

Jackson envious. Actually,

Jackson will see green

either way, since he owns

the publishing rights to the

Lennon-McCartney catalog

and stands to profit

from the new interest.

The plan is centred around

making sure 3 million

copies of the first CD

anthology are in stores by

Nov. 20, the day after one of

the new Beatles songs, Free

As A Bird, is first heard on

television.

How's the new song?

Don't ask Kirkland. He

sweats security is so tight

that he hasn't heard it.

"It turned out fabulous,"

said one biased observer,

Ringo Starr. "It turned out

just like the Beatles. Why

not?"



The surviving Beatles, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison in 1995



The Beatles in 1969

## Memling — saintly beauty

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

The painter Memling died in Bruges in 1494. The Belgian town, with which his name is intimately linked, paid homage to him through an exhibition, held, not in the former Hospital Saint-Jean which, for more than five centuries, has housed a large number of his works, but in the Groeninge Museum, which is so rich in Flemish paintings.

PARIS — At that time, Flanders belonged to Burgundy and Bruges was the second capital of the dukes of Burgundy. Philippe the Good founded the Order of the Golden Fleece there, on the day when he married Isabelle of Portugal. The town thrived. It was an important financial centre and drew Europe's rich bankers and prosperous merchants. It was later to call the Flemish Primitives, meaning that they were the first to exert their talents

"on a panel or on canvas", gave the town its artistic splendour. After Van Eyck, who died in 1441, came Memling, who was celebrated as "the most famous painter in Christendom", as was said in Latin in his funeral eulogy.

Little is known about Memling except that he was born between 1430 and 1440 near Mainz, in that region of Germany called Franconia. He probably studied at the studio of Stefan Lochner in Cologne and he certainly frequented that of Rogier de la Pasture (Van der Weyden) in Brussels. In 1465 he settled in Bruges where he died in 1494. By bringing his own reputation, he certainly contributed to the golden age of the town. But, he also lived through the first decade of the decline, without his creation being affected by it. He opposed permanence and beauty, to wars, disease and famine.

For "all is but order and beauty, luxury and calm" and saintliness. The Middle Ages were Christian and

medieval painting was Christian. Memling painted Virgins, Nativities, Adorations of the Magi, Passions and Crucifixions. Even in portraits (and he was a sought-after portrait-painter), the subject often adopted a pose in prayer. The rich donors of the religious compositions, abbots and abbesses or bourgeois town-councillors or nobles, are often represented as onlookers to the religious scene, kneeling beneath the protection of their patron saint who can be recognised by his attributes: Saint Catherine's broken wheel and sword, Saint Barbara's tower, Saint Agnes's lamb, Saint Mark's or Saint Jerome's lion, Saint Antony's tau and pig, etc.

But this painter of heavenly beauty is also an attentive realist. Usual or precious objects and numerous musical instruments are depicted with precision. The background of the paintings is taken up by a landscape or a town bustling with everyday activity. In the Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist altarpiece (1479), also known by the name of Saint Catherine's Reliquary, Memling relates the naval voyage of the young princess and the eleven thousand virgins who are her companions, and then their martyrdom beneath the arrows of the Huns in Cologne, which can be recognised by its most famous monuments, depicted with as much detail as the costumes, the armour and the rigging.

Memling, faithful to the medieval tradition and carrying it to perfection, also enjoys telling stories. The Passion (1470), kept in Turin, is a masterpiece of the narrative genre. In an



Jeanne De France having a vision of Virgin Mary and the Child by the Flemish painter Memling



By Isabel Kershner  
BLOCK 30197, Parcel 48 is an overgrown patch of land near a disused railway track in the now largely gentrified and exclusive West Jerusalem neighbourhood of Baka. Its area of 631 square metres is large enough to build a small apartment block, and it is likely worth over \$1 million. The land belongs to the Development Authority, a branch of the Israel Lands Authority — according to Israeli law, at least.

The family of Radwan Hussein Al-Tabakhi has a problem with that. In 1946, Tabakhi, a merchant from Hebron, bought the plot from a Mr. Barakat for 1,425 Palestinian pounds. The details of the transaction are recorded in Israel's land registry which dates back to Ottoman times, and is known by its Turkish name of Tabu.

After the 1948 war, the Tabakhis ended up on the other side of the border, in the West Bank. Like the property of thousands of other Palestinians who fled West Jerusalem and its surrounding villages as a result of the war, or who owned houses and land in the city but lived in the West Bank, the Tabakhi plot lay abandoned.

Eventually Radwan's family moved to Amman; all that remained of the Tabakhi connection to Baka was a page in the Tabu ledgers.

In the meantime, the young state of Israel stepped in. Left with whole neighbourhoods of empty houses and abandoned plots, and faced with an influx of Jewish immigrants who desperately needed accommodation, the Knesset passed the Absentees' Property law in 1950. The law, still in effect, allows for all abandoned property to be held in trust by the state, to be administrated by a government appointee known as the Custodian for Absentee Property.

An "absentee" is defined as a person who, at any time between November 29, 1947 and the day on which the state of emergency declared in 1948 ceases to exist, became a national or citizen of an Arab country; or simply left his ordinary place of residence in Palestine "for a place outside Palestine before September 1, 1948." Israel has not, to this day, cancelled the state of emergency. Its continued existence is largely theoretical — except when it comes to issues such as military censorship of the press and the Absentees' Property Law.

According to the law, the status of the custodian is the same "as was that of the owner of the property." The custodian may hold on to property, sell it to the Development Authority or lease it out. Any proceeds from these transactions, minus legal and administrative expenses, are to be held in trust by the custodian in a special fund — presumably for the absentees, until the time when the state of emergency is declared over.

Radwan Tabakhi and his heirs may not have known the ins and outs of the law, but they have not forgotten the plot by the railway track. And for the

In 1948, the Arab residents of West Jerusalem left in a hurry, abandoning thousands of houses and plots of land. This property, now Jewish-owned,

includes some of the most valuable real estate in Jerusalem. With peace, many former owners expect to be compensated — and Jordan's

ambassador to Israel is taking up their case. The following article, which appeared in the Israeli magazine *The Jerusalem Report*, examines the issue.

Tabakhis, after 47 years away, the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty signed 12 months ago changed the whole picture. This summer, they came to Jerusalem from Amman to find out what had happened to their land, learning that in the 1950s, it had been transferred to the Development Authority. "They came to see if, with the peace process, Israel will give up its land," relates Radwan Tabakhi's nephew Rubbi, who still lives in Hebron.

The Tabakhis' quest took them to Israeli officials, to Orient House — the Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem — and to the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv. In Jordan, friends had been telling them that if they went to Jerusalem, they would come back with \$4 or \$5 million. This time, they returned to Amman with nothing but a smudgy photocopy of the relevant page from the Tabu registry.

Geographer Khalil Tufakji is the Palestinian point man at Orient House who deals with lands lost and properties claims. On his office wall hangs a map of Jerusalem, with Jewish and Arab neighbourhoods from before 1948 blocked off in primary colours. It is Tufakji who steered the Tabakhs through the Tabu bureaucracy during their visit to Israel, helping them check the registration of their land. He is also keeping a file on their behalf.

Tufakji points out that some of the toniest Jewish residential districts in West Jerusalem — Baka, Talbiyah, the German Colony, Katamon — were mainly Arab before 1948. Beneath the municipal boundaries of today's West Jerusalem, which includes the one-time villages of Malha, Ein Karem, Lifta and Beit Safafa, over 70 per cent of the land was once Arab-owned — although it might not all have been properly registered in Tabu, for tax reasons, by its original owners.

Tufakji says his information has been backed up by Meron Benvenisti, a left-wing former deputy mayor of Jerusalem. But Benvenisti, when contacted by the *Jerusalem Report*, said he has no special knowledge of the subject.

The only person who knows the full extent and real value of absentee property in the city is the custodian himself, Yehzekel Shamash, who has been just eight months on the job. Shamash told the *Report* that since he deals with personal files, the information he holds is restricted; specific files may only be released by court order. "I rarely agree to meet with journalists," he said on the phone. "This isn't my personal bugbear. I'm covered by the law on this one."

In what are now known as the "old" areas of West Jerusalem, each of the grander mansions has a tale of its own, richly told in the tomes of "Jerusalem Architecture," the six-volume work by Jerusalem architect David Kroyanker.

There's the two-story Villa Harun Al Rashid in the Talbiyah neighbourhood, built in 1926 as two apartments for rent by the refugees and renovate the Arab houses moved in, and turned them into one- or two-family homes. The government took over many apartments, and contractors got rights to whole houses and began to add on floors.

Talbiyah is now strictly for the well-heeled. House prices in Jerusalem are already high; but for the much sought-after "Arab

Embassy on West Jerusalem's Hebron Road.

The Palestinians for the most part recognise West Jerusalem as Israel's sovereign state. Politically, the PLO's sights are trained on the east of the city, where Yasser Arafat wants to establish the capital of a future Palestinian state. But that doesn't erase the fact that many Palestinians once owned property in the west.

"Since the peace process, and since Mr. Husseini opened the West Jerusalem file, a lot of people have been turning to us," says Tufakji, a laconic man with mustache and round glasses. "My job is to help them just live in Hebron."

Just how much absentee property exists in West Jerusalem — or indeed, in the rest of Israel — seems to be something of a well-guarded state secret. Khalil Tufakji says there are 5,700 Palestinian houses, and claims that within the municipal boundaries of today's West Jerusalem, which includes the one-time villages of Malha, Ein Karem, Lifta and Beit Safafa, over 70 per cent of the land was once Arab-owned — although it might not all have been properly registered in Tabu, for tax reasons, by its original owners.

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Talbiyah is now strictly for the well-heeled. House prices in Jerusalem are already high; but for the much sought-after "Arab

houses," the sky is the limit. "People are specifically interested in acquiring them, but there are hardly any on the market," notes one Jerusalem real estate agent.

In Baka, there is one 12-room, two-story house set in a large garden currently on the market. The asking price: \$2.7 million.

The peace process is beginning to rattle the status quo of almost five decades, during which most abandoned properties were registered in Tabu under new ownership.

Some are on long-term renewable leases from the Amidar government housing corporation. Many owners have since bought the rights from Amidar. For Israel, this is a true can of worms which, once opened, could have tremendous ramifications.

The claims do not stop in West Jerusalem — they extend to Jaffa, to Haifa, and indeed, to villages that no longer exist.

Jordan's ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, caused a mini-rumpus among American Jewish leaders at a recent seminar in Amman when he raised the issue of compensation for abandoned Arab property in Israel, and suggested that the future of Jordanian-Israeli relations was conditional on resolution of this problem.

"People jumped at me for opening up 1948 issues," Dr. Muasher told *The Report* soon after his return to Tel Aviv. "But these issues were never closed. The question of property in Israel is different from the question of sovereignty."

Not surprisingly, Dr. Muasher has more than a passing academic interest in the Absentees' Property Law.

In the cramped suite at the waterfront Dan Hotel that serves as his temporary embassy, he keeps a special file on the law, with which he is familiar clause by clause.

The perception among many is that all the political problems between Jordan and Israel were over with the signing of the treaty, he said in an interview with *The Report*. "But they are not. The whole refugee issue has yet to be resolved, and absentee property in Israel proper, that is within the pre-1967 borders, is a sub-problem of that issue."

Dr. Muasher, like everybody else, is hard-pressed to come up with numbers.

He stresses that he is only speaking on behalf of Jordanian citizens, not all the Arabs who left Israel in 1948. The best he can do is to report that "many" Jordanians of Palestinian origin, and "some" Jordanians born in the East Bank, had property in Israel before 1948. And this, he adds, is an issue

that the Absentees' Property Law is the business of the Justice Ministry. Justice Minister David Libai, in turn, refused to be interviewed or answer specific questions that were sent to him, saying that he is not expert on the subject and that the questions should be directed to the Finance Ministry.

Many Palestinians now living in East Jerusalem or (other parts of) the West Bank seem to view their old property claims as history.

Dr. Amin Majaj, a retired East Jerusalem pediatrician — who several months ago was named as the head of a rogue East Jerusalem city council set up by Yasser Arafat to challenge Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem — told *The Report* that his family had land in what is now the booming commercial district of Talpiot.

"But we have forgotten all about it," he declared. Asked if he expects eventual compensation for it, he replied: "As I said, we've forgotten all about it."

Others, like Yasser Odeh from Bethlehem, have not quite forgotten while they went about building new lives and homes. Odeh was 9 when his family left their house and land in the village of Malha in 1948. He recalls that when "the troubles" began, people in the village spoke about bringing guns to protect themselves. "But the Jordanian volunteers told us to leave the village, and leave the fighting to them," Odeh relates. "Malha had about 5,000 residents. We all left at the same time. My family came to Bethlehem."

In the opening shot of what amounts to a campaign, Ambassador Muasher recently wrote to the Israeli Foreign Ministry protesting the 1994 law, and asking for its repeal. Three weeks later, he had still not received any response.

In the meantime, for Dr. Muasher — whose family never owned any property in Israel — the Absentees' Property Law has become a source of genuine indignation.

"Israel itself admits that this property does not belong to it, and that it should be returned when the state of emergency has ceased to exist. We have since signed a peace treaty," he says, his voice rising in exasperation, "and the question is, if Israel still won't return this property now, when will it do this?"

No official body in Israel seems ready to even face these questions. Having had a request for a meeting with the custodian turned down.

The Report addressed specific questions to him via the Finance Ministry, under whose auspices he operates. The Finance Ministry's response was that the Absentees' Property

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Yasser Odeh is today the father of nine sons and three daughters. He has a sprawling four-story home with huge verandas and a stunning view, and a thriving car electronics business that his sons run in the gas station on the main road into Bethlehem. He says he would never take money for his family property in Malha. But he claims he would "give up everything just to live in a cave" where he was born.

Khalil Tufakji, Faisal Hussein's property expert, is typically laconic when asked about an eventual solution. "We can't speak about money," he said. "A thousand Palestinian pounds then is probably worth the equivalent of \$20 now, while the new houses are selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars."

For Ambassador Muasher, the solution is also far from cut-and-dried. He vehemently rejects an often-made Israeli argument that Jews left behind vast amounts of property when they left the Arab countries to come to Israel, and that the mutual claims will in the end cancel each other out.

"There is not a single Jewish house in Jordan," he declares, "so in our case, the *quid pro quo* doesn't work."

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In 1951, Odeh says, a delegation of villagers returned to Malha to see what had happened to it. The village was empty, and valuable furniture inside the houses had gone. The men were scared away by shots fired by Israeli guards. Soon after, the Israeli government moved Jewish refugees from Iraqi Kurdistan into the houses in Malha — many of whom have remained there to this day.

After 1967, when the West Bank fell into Israeli hands and the border with Israel was opened, Odeh returned to Malha to see the house. "The Jewish inhabitants shut the door in my face and told me not to come back," he says.

"Since then, I haven't tried again. But I see the house from a distance. It's still there, though rooms have been added on."

Today, Malha, a 10-minute drive from central Jerusalem and a similar distance from Bethlehem, is flourishing. Many homes in the old village have been gentrified. A brand-new neighbourhood has been

built alongside it, and at the bottom of the hill sits the Jerusalem Mall, the biggest shopping mall in the Middle East.

Odeh says that his family owned 50 dunams of land in the area, some where the mall now stands some in the residential neighbourhood. He produces a plastic bag containing folded yellowed pages. There's a deed of sale from 1939 for a patch of land in the hadaba, the "hump" that is now the new residential district; British tax receipts from 1943, 1944 and 1945; and a few pages from Tabu showing land registrations by Odeh's father, Rashid Ismail, signed with inky thumbprints.

The Odeh's patch of land in the hadaba cost 50 Palestinian pounds in 1939. Single penthouse apartments are selling there now for upwards of \$500,000.

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Yasser Odeh is today the father of nine sons and three daughters. He has a sprawling four-story home with huge verandas and a stunning view, and a thriving car electronics business that his sons run in the gas station on the main road into Bethlehem. He says he would never take money for his family property in Malha. But he claims he would "give up everything just to live in a cave" where he was born.

Khalil Tufakji, Faisal Hussein's property expert, is typically laconic when asked about an eventual solution. "We can't speak about money," he said. "A thousand Palestinian pounds then is probably worth the equivalent of \$20 now, while the new houses are selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars."

For Ambassador Muasher, the solution is also far from cut-and-dried. He vehemently rejects an often-made Israeli argument that Jews left behind vast amounts of property when they left the Arab countries to come to Israel, and that the mutual claims will in the end cancel each other out.

"There is not a single Jewish house in Jordan," he declares, "so in our case, the *quid pro quo* doesn't work."

Others, like Yasser Odeh from Bethlehem, have not quite forgotten while they went about building new lives and homes. Odeh was 9 when his family left their house and land in the village of

# Economy

## Alarm bells ringing for Palestinian economy — Arafat

CAIRO (AFP) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat on Tuesday raised the alarm over the deteriorating economic situation in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

"I am addressing you with a cry for help. Donor countries have only given us a very small amount of what they pledged to provide," Mr. Arafat told 80 Palestinian businessmen at a conference in Cairo.

"Donor countries promised us aid to help the Palestinian people recover from the ruins of the Israeli occupation and rebuild their infrastructure, so they could then concentrate on consolidating stability and security," he added.

Israel had sealed off the Gaza Strip and West Bank for security reasons for a total 224 days since self-rule was launched in Gaza and Jericho in May 1994, he said.

The closures cost the Palestinians \$6 million a day by preventing people from getting to their jobs in Israel and stopping the flow of goods, he said.

Unemployment stood at 58 per cent of the active population, he added. "Development and the creation of new jobs is one of our people's main priorities."

"It is impossible to talk about regional economic projects without emphasising the importance of resolving the economic problems of the Palestinians caused by the (Israeli) occupation," he stressed.

Mr. Arafat urged Palestinian businessmen to invest in the self-rule areas, promising to give them guarantees and cut red tape.

The businessmen were attending a conference on the reconstruction of the Palestinian territories which was organised by the Arab League.

League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid said he hoped the forum would identify the obstacles to development and come up with ways to overcome them and encourage Arab private investment.

The conference was to continue until Thursday.

## Japan seen wary of yen's falls on banking woes

TOKYO (R) — Japan, once aggressive in its attempts to rein in the mighty yen, now seems worried about sharper falls in the currency because of mounting global market concerns about the nation's banking system, economists said.

"There is some hesitation among policymakers about calling loudly for a further reversal (of the dollar) if the yen's further fall reflects growing worries about Japan's banking system," a government economist said.

Just a month ago, Japan welcomed a commitment by the Group of Seven nations to a continued reversal of the dollar.

But its monetary authorities have turned cautious since the dollar's recent recovery against the yen as a result of banking problems, analysts said.

The dollar may climb to 106 or 107 yen, but a rise above 110 yen will raise questions about whether such an exchange rate is good for the economy, they said.

The dollar closed in Tokyo at around 103 yen on Wednesday. Depending on how the

government handles the nation's bad loan problems, an unexpected fall in the yen may occur," said Hiroshi Yamamura, chief economist at NLI Research Institute.

"They (monetary authorities) should be concerned about potential risks of a sharp decline in the yen as a result of the worsening fears about the Japan's bad loan problems, which may eventually have an adverse effect on the economy," said Susumu Takahashi, senior economist at Japan Research Institute Ltd.

Mounting worries about the banking system may prompt stock market decline and further restrain bank lending to corporations, offsetting any benefit a weaker yen would have on the economy, he said.

Economists and currency dealers said Japan's monetary authorities are now focusing more on maintaining a stable dollar/yen rate rather than on pushing the dollar up artificially through dollar-buying intervention.

They said Bank of Japan dollar-buying intervention had slowed recently.

Tokyo dealers said the dol-

lar will not lose ground easily, because worries about Japan's banking system were discouraging currency traders from aggressively holding yen assets.

The dollar rose as high as 104.05 yen on Monday in Tokyo, compared with a level of around 100 yen in early October.

The goal of monetary authorities now appears to be to promote corporate capital investment by having a stable dollar/yen rate at around current levels, analysts said.

They said a further weakening of the yen would undermine ongoing company efforts to shift production overseas to reduce costs.

Currency dealers said market concerns about Japan's banking problems appeared to have subsided somewhat after intensifying on last week's news that troubled Daiwa Bank Ltd had been ordered to shut down its U.S. operations.

But although those concerns have subsided recently, the dollar may shoot up to 110 yen if any big financial problem surfaces, said Noriyuki Takano, vice president at Chase Manhattan

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## Yeltsin names new central bank chief

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin fired his tough reformist interim central bank chairwoman Tatjana Paramonova and named a new interim chairman Wednesday, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The Kremlin appeared to hope its new choice, Alexander Khandruyev, would have a better chance of winning confirmation in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, than Ms. Paramonova, who was named in October 1994 but never confirmed.

But Western experts said Mr. Khandruyev was unlikely to follow in the monetarist footsteps of Mr. Paramonova, whose strict regulatory policies were opposed by the commercial banks and the Duma.

Mr. Khandruyev's belief in tight monetary policy and stable currency rates "is tiny," said one Western expert, who asked not to be named.

Yeltsin's economics adviser Alexander Livshits said: "I think Khandruyev is an experienced person who has good contacts with the legislative branch."

"Now it's up to the Duma to decide," he was quoted as saying by Echo Moscow radio.

Mr. Khandruyev, 50, met with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin immediately after being named interim chairman, the central bank said.

Mr. Khandruyev headed the committee on economic reform at the end of the Soviet Union, working alongside Grigory Yavlinsky, among other prominent free market reformers, the central bank said.

The following year, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, he became deputy

chairman of the Russian Federation's central bank.

Ms. Paramonova, 45, was named interim chairwoman and Mr. Khandruyev, first deputy chairman after Mr. Yeltsin fired Viktor Gerashchenko as chairman in the wake of "Black Tuesday" in October last year, when the ruble fell by 21 per cent in a day.

But Ms. Paramonova, the first woman to hold the post, was repeatedly turned down by the Duma despite Mr. Yeltsin's firm backing, partly because of Russia's macho political hierarchy, but mainly because of her rigorous policies.

She didn't act demurely enough as a female and she's taken a tough line on banks," said a Western economic expert. "She sees her job as not defending the interests of the banking sector."

Mr. Khandruyev "blows with the wind. He's not a dinosaur and he's not directly beholden to the banking system," the expert said. "But if he turns out to be as much a Rock of Gibraltar as Paramonova I'd be very pleasantly surprised."

Alexander Sagryadski, an analyst at the Association of Russian Banks, said Mr. Khandruyev's nomination as interim rather than full chairman was not welcomed by the commercial banks because it did not create stability.

"The central bank must have a permanent leader because the central bank... is an independent body, autonomous from the government," he said.

There was no guarantee that Mr. Yeltsin would quickly submit Mr. Khandruyev before the Duma, rather than keep him on as interim chairman, economists said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you try a different angle with older persons today, you can now solve a difficulty with them more easily at that time.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Get your outside tasks handled vigorously and efficiently in the daytime today then pursue your personal goals later tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study carefully a letter from afar since it can be of real assistance to you for your success and later today get the backing of a bigwig.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get your outside tasks of account more streamlined so that they will be easier to handle, then later today study into new activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get agreements wound up in the morning today with partners and then get right to activities on your side of the matter.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Labours should be very easy to handle in the morning today, then you can confect with outside partners and plan the future better.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Show more cooperation for your mate and get good results, then get right to the activities ahead of you and accomplish a good deal.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Even if you are out in business today, it is well to keep your mind on home and family, then later tonight you can enjoy amusements with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get communications acknowledged in a novel way during the morning today and then later tonight handle family matters well.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study your property for needed improvements and then later today study pamphlets, brochures which can give you good ideas.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have fine ideas for making progress and should follow your own inclinations at this time. Improve all your practical affairs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Come to right decision about future benefits early in the day today and then take any health treatments you may need.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get busy at duties of a personal or business nature and get much accomplished today. Then later carry through with promises you have made.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You had better make a note of what you want your friends to do for you today so that you will not forget them and you can get much accomplished.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have fine ideas for the day ahead, but you have to get right down to specifics if you are to put them in operation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day today to handle credit and civic affairs. Plan that trip you have in mind and count the cost as well.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you take your mate for granted today, you will have to pay for the privilege later on tonight. Be more attentive then ever.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Listening to ideas of outside associates today will help you to understand the overall picture very well for a new project now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are addicted to neatness and punctuality and can apply such to whatever your interests are at this time for you to be successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to be encouraging with fellow associates and come to a better understanding with them to gain cooperation towards completion of a new project.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can add a touch of genius to whatever career activities you are doing today and gain greater benefits for the future ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Discuss some new angle with associates today which you think would be very beneficial and successful for you in the future.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study how to make your assets grow today, but do not take any foolish risks which could spell disaster. Take care of repairs on the homefront.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Have discussions with outside allies today and come to a fine meeting of minds. Greater progress is possible for you in the future.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

## Israeli business urges stability to protect foreign investment

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli businessmen urged their new leader Shimon Peres Wednesday to guarantee political stability and press on with the peace process to protect an unprecedented boom in foreign investments.

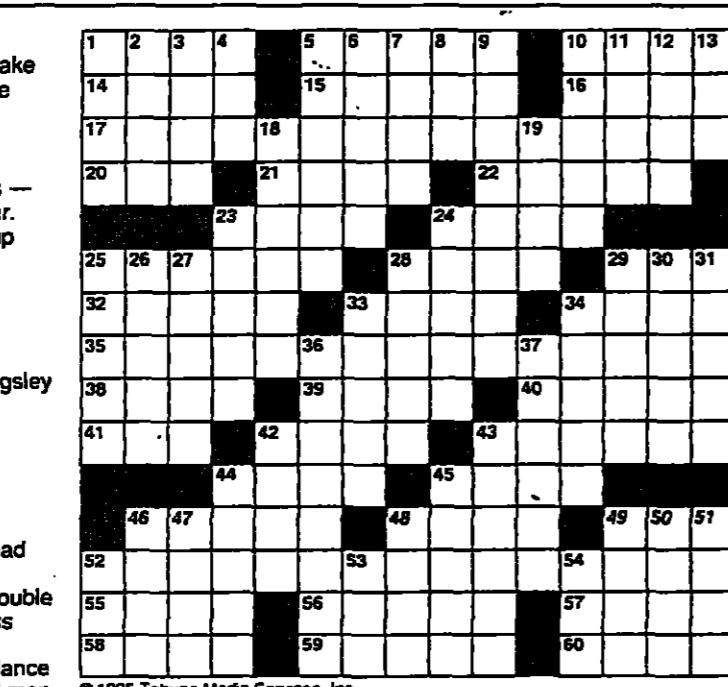
Bosses fear that the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has dealt a severe blow to the image of Israel has been trying to forge abroad for the past three years.

"The foreign businessmen with whom I have talked were stunned, they could not understand how such a thing could happen here," said Zvi Amit, the director of the Chambers of Commerce Association.

"We are once again perceived as a risky country, just as we had succeeded in getting rid of that reputation over the past years," he added.

For Israel the stakes are huge. Since the launch of the peace process in 1993, it has managed to attract numerous multinationals to the country which stayed away before be-

THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson



## Tourism booms in Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain received \$500 million from tourism last year, almost four times than in 1993, officials said in remarks published Wednesday.

The Arab Gulf archipelago is now launching a worldwide campaign to boost tourism revenue to \$800 million by the year 2000, the officials told the English-language newspaper Gulf Daily News.

A total of 2,582,895 tourists visited Bahrain, accounting for more than half of the five million tourists recorded in all six Arab Gulf countries.

Sheikh Khalifa said most tourists only made short stops but that officials would try to encourage them to stay longer.

Citizens of the five other Gulf states — Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — visit Bahrain often as Gulf nationals do not need visas each other's countries.

"The total revenue earned was \$500 million, which is a very promising figure and will increase in the coming years," Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Abdallah Khalifa, a tourism department official, said.

Bahrain earned \$130 million from tourism in 1993.

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# Business & Finance

## Lebanese investment fund created

**BETRUT (R)** — A Beirut finance house has announced the creation of a Lebanese international investment fund aimed at private investors.

Capital Investment Services (CIS) said it will launch the international Lebanese investment account on Dec. 15 in cooperation with Royal Bank of Canada Investment Management (U.K.) Limited (RBCIM) in London.

The fund's initial target is \$25 million, a CIS source told Reuters.

"It will initially invest up to 15 per cent in the Lebanese fixed income and equities market and the rest in high quality securities in the United States, Europe, Japan, Britain, the Far East and Latin America," the source said.

"It is aimed at international investors who want exposure in Lebanon in a diversified portfolio and at Lebanese investors who want exposure in the international markets," he added.

All assets within each account will be registered in the name of RBCIM's nominee company and held in custody by the bank apart from Lebanese shares which will be held in safe custody by Midclear SAL, the Lebanese clearing house.

Lebanese investments will be managed by CIS and inter-

national investments by RBCIM, which will open and administer the account.

"This is the first structured product in which you can invest in Lebanese equities and fixed income securities together with a basket of international fixed income and securities," the CIS source said.

"It is aimed at interna-

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CIS Chairman Khalil Kikko was formerly a vice-president of Royal Bank of Canada based in London with responsibility for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

In the past two years CIS has become one of the most active investment houses on the reemerging Beirut.

It has been instrumental in launching several financial products and investment

vehicles, working on major issues with local and international institutions including Credit Lyonnais Liban, Banque Indosuez and Banque Liban-Francaise, and Paribas Capital Markets.

DREN: (June 22 to Aug. 21) Your books of streamlined so far easier to handle, lay study into use.

to August 21) Sound up with partners as it to the activities of the matters.

August 22 to 22) Labour, easy to handle today, then either with outside I plan the future.

September 23 to 2) Show more for your mate results, then get activities ahead to accomplish a good

(October 21 to 21) Even if you are not in the mood, then late can enjoy amuse loved ones.

(US: November 21) Get acknowledged during the more and then late family matter.

N: (December 20) Study needed improvement later today, brochures give you good

: (January 21 to 2) You have making progress follow your or at this time is your practice.

February 19 Come to at future boards day today my health may need.

November: Top e

FOR FRIDAY, BER 10, 1995

to 21 to April 1st of a person turn and get met today. Then let with promises you make a note so that you will not be disappointed.

May 20 to May 3 ideas for the top a have to get right if you are to profit.

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July 21 to June 21 ideas for the top a have to get right if you are to profit.

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## Lille bids for 2004 Games

PARIS (AFP) — The French National Olympic Committee Tuesday chose the northeastern city of Lille as its candidate for the 2004 Summer Games.

Lille, which unveiled a 8.1 billion franc (1.7 billion dollar) provisional budget, was chosen 15-13 in a secret ballot of committee members over Lyon in the southeast which had also wanted to stage the money-spinning games.

Mayor Pierre Mauroy, a former French prime minister, said that France should now reunite behind his city to ensure that they beat tough

foreign competition to stage the games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) deadline for bids is January 10 and the IOC will fix a short-list of four or five sites by April 1, 1997. A host city will be announced on September 7, 1997.

The next two Olympics will be held in Atlanta, Georgia next year, and in Sydney, Australia in the year 2000.

Other venues interested in staging the 2004 games are: Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; St. Petersburg, Russia; Seville, Spain;

Rome; Boston, Massachusetts; Osaka, Japan; Buenos Aires; Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; San Juan, Puerto Rico and Stockholm.

The Chinese Olympic Committee said last month they may propose the southern city of Guangzhou and not Beijing, which was beaten to the 2000 Games in Sydney.

France has previously staged two Summer Olympics — Paris in 1900 and 1924 — and three Winter Olympics — Chamonix in 1924, Grenoble in 1968 and Albertville in 1992.

## Ivanisevic upset in Kremlin Cup

MOSCOW (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic suffered a stunning straight-set loss to unseeded Shuzo Matsuoka in the opening round of the Kremlin Cup tennis tournament Tuesday, ending his hopes of making the ATP Championships.

"Today I was just a piece of garbage," said the second-seeded Croat, whose recent slump has dropped him to No. 9 in the world rankings.

Ivanisevic had been battling Thomas Enqvist for the eighth ranking and final qualifying spot in the year-end ATP tour world championships, beginning Nov. 14 in Frankfurt, Germany. He

came to Moscow needing a win and an early exit by the Swede at this week's tournament in Stocholm.

But this booming serve failed him against Matsuoka of Japan, and numerous unforced errors contributed to a 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 upset.

Third-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland eliminated the tournament's only remaining American, Jeff Tarango, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-2).

Defending champion and No. 6 seed Alexander Volkov of Russia, a notorious slow starter in tournaments, rallied to beat Lionel Roux of France 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0.

Two other seeds joined Ivanisevic on the list of first-round upsets. Karol Kucera of Slovakia defeated No. 5 Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, 6-4, 7-5, and Russia's Andrei Olgovskiy downed No. 7 Renzo Furian of Italy, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.

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### THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) AND THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA)

seek qualified Jordanian professionals for two vacant posts as National Programme Officers in their Amman office.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a multisectoral funding agency active in a broad spectrum of fields relevant to Jordan's socio-economic development as defined by the Jordanian Government's priorities. Among UNDP's current priority areas are (a) human development with particular emphasis on poverty reduction and creation of employment, (b) environmental protection and natural resource management, (c) technical support to improve Jordan's international competitiveness.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the U.N. system's primary funding agency in the field of population and development strategies (e.g. demography, population statistics); reproductive health, including family welfare/family planning, and advocacy.

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Programme Officers in UNDP and UNFPA will, within the respective mandate of these two institutions, have the following general duties and responsibilities:

- to analyze Jordan's national policies and priorities based on available socio-economic data and prepare relevant background papers and reports;
- to identify Jordan's technical assistance needs and develop programme/project proposals for inclusion in UNDP's/UNFPA's Country Programmes for Jordan;
- to appraise programme/project proposals in close dialogue with the responsible government agencies and the Jordanian beneficiaries in the population at large;
- to monitor on-going projects through field visits and regular reporting, and to facilitate project implementation through supportive interventions and close follow-up; and through supportive interventions and close follow-up; and
- prepare programme management plans and carry out financial management of projects, including budgeting and expenditure forecasts.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- a post-graduate university degree, preferably in one of the social sciences (e.g. economics, public administration, sociology) or in a technical discipline relevant to socio-economic development;
- at least three and at most twelve years of relevant professional experience in government service, in academic institutions, in non-governmental organizations and/or in community-based development/social work;
- full oral proficiency in Arabic and English and excellent drafting / conceptualization skills in both languages;
- highly developed inter-cultural and inter-personal skills that enable the applicant to (a) feel fully at ease among and work closely with people of different races, cultures, political or religious orientations; (b) participate effectively in team work; and (c) be highly sensitive to and supportive of gender concerns;
- other qualifications that will be considered important extra assets: (a) computer literacy, particularly knowledge of and routine in the use of word processing; (b) strong public presentation and communication skills, and (c) knowledge of a third United Nations language.

Candidates are requested to submit their application (incl. a complete curriculum vitae) no later than 23 November 1995 in a sealed envelope clearly marked "NPO Application" to

UNDP or UNFPA, P.O. Box 35286, Amman 11180

or deliver it by hand to the receptionist in the UNDP/UNFPA office, Hirbawi Building, Obadah ibn Al-Samit Street, Shmeisani, Amman. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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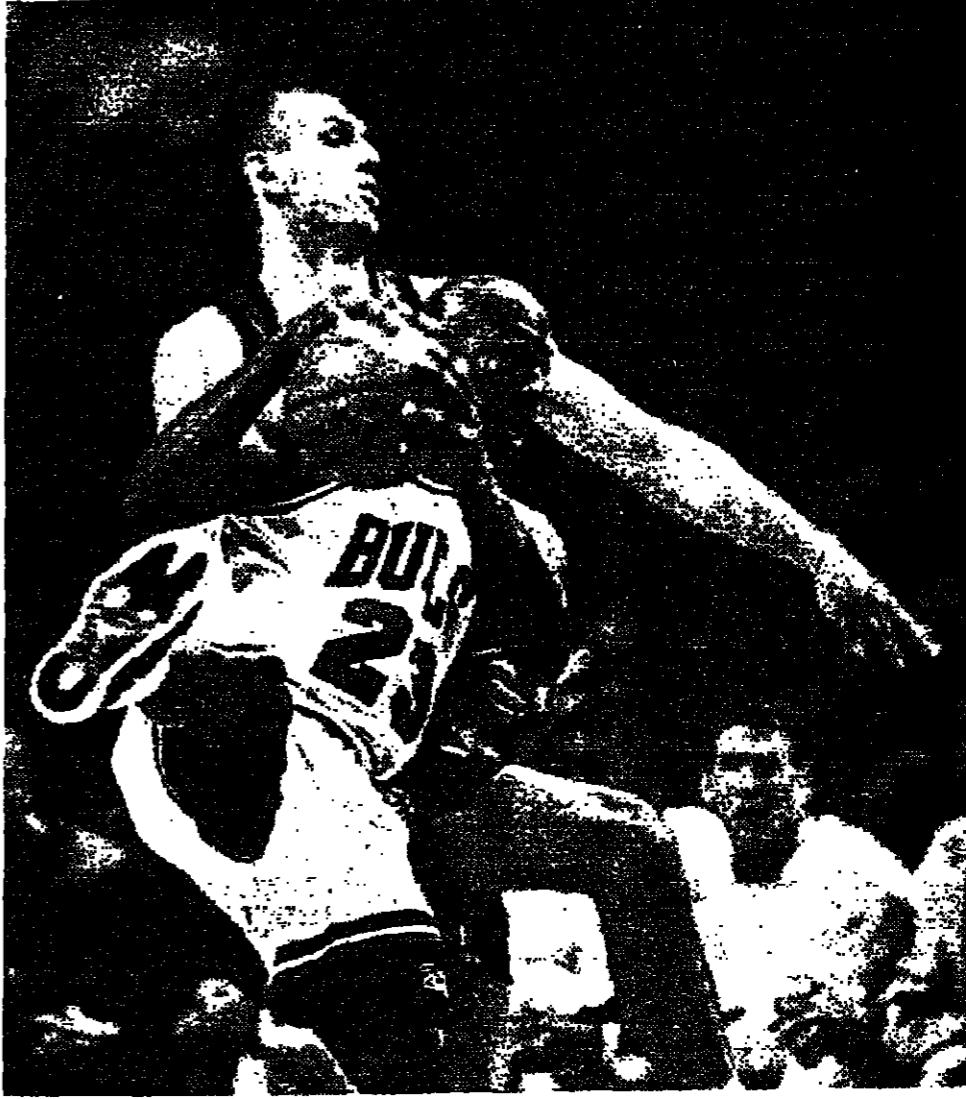
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**TODAY AT**



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Ferguson thanks fans for jail

GLASGOW (AFP) — Jailed Scotland and Everton footballer Duncan Ferguson has thanked Everton fans for their support during what he describes as "the most difficult period of my life." Speaking to the Liverpool Echo from his prison cell, Ferguson said: "I have been overwhelmed by the fantastic support I have received from Everton fans everywhere. "It has helped keep my spirits up and I feel it is important to tell people just how much those messages have helped lift my spirits," he added. The striker also revealed he has been keeping in touch with Everton's results and said: "I have a radio and wait anxiously to hear our results. I did not realise just how much I would miss football."

### U.N. sets record

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations broke its own record Tuesday, with an unprecedented 161 countries backing a resolution on building peace through sport. The 185-member General Assembly approved the resolution without a vote. It calls for a truce during the Olympics and cooperation between the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee in promoting peace and equality. On Monday, U.S. gold medal gymnast Bart Conner said that breaking the record in sponsorship would be "truly an Olympic feat of the first order." Conner won two gold medals in the 1994 Olympics. The previous U.N. record was set in 1990, when 158 nations backed a resolution admitting the African state of Namibia into the United Nations.

### Camacho defeats Danny Chavez

CHESTER, West Virginia (AP) — Hector Camacho, capitalising on his jab and foot speed, won his 13th straight bout Tuesday night with a unanimous decision over Danny Chavez in a 10-round welterweight fight. Camacho, 33, was awarded every round but one on the three judges' scorecards at mountaineer racetrack and gaming resort. He won by scores of 100-90 and 99-91. Camacho used his jab in the first three rounds to keep Chavez away, before getting more aggressive with body shots. He kept Chavez off balance throughout, adeptly avoiding combinations. Camacho of Orlando, Florida, last lost in January 1994 to International Boxing Federation welterweight champion Felix Trinidad. Camacho is now 57-3 with 27 knockouts and holds the welterweight title of the fringe International Boxing Council. Chavez, 29, of Petaluma, California, drops to 25-6 with 11 knockouts.

### Graf struggles on in silence

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — World number one Steffi Graf refused to answer questions on her private life here on Tuesday after struggling to a second round 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over American Amy Frazier at the Philadelphia WTA tournament. "I've got a week and a half of tennis left this year, so can we just talk about tennis," said the 26-year-old. A recent article in German magazine Der Spiegel claimed Graf was often beaten by her father Peter, who is currently in prison facing tax evasion charges after the players' finances were investigated. Graf has been beaten just once in 40 games this season.

### Leeds confident of landing Brolin

LONDON (R) — English Premier League side Leeds will open talks on Thursday with Italian club Parma in a bid to agree a fee for Sweden striker Tomas Brolin. He passed a medical at Leeds' headquarters on Tuesday before returning to Sweden to consider the move. Brolin, who has not played for the joint serie a leaders this season after breaking his ankle, has already received offers from three rival Italian clubs. Leeds believe Brolin and Ghanaian Tony Yeboah could form an exciting international strikeforce. Brolin shot to prominence in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy and was then instrumental in Sweden's progress to the semifinals of the 1992 European Championship finals.

### Christofle - Only one quality - the best

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Officer of Christofle Company, Maurizio Borletti.

Tuesday inaugurated a new wing at Abu Shagara Trading Company's Bayader Wadi Seir branch, with display of exquisite tableware.

In 1995, on the eve of the

twenty-first century, there

are only a few companies of

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ceeded in handing down a

corporate culture, a tra-

dition, a skill, and heritage

through six generations of

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is one such company. The

founder Charles Christofle

was born in 1805 and

Maurizio Borletti, the cur-

rent chief executive officer of Societe Christofle, was

born in 1967.

Over that span of time

unfolded the saga of Christofle: the adventure of six

generations of dedicated,

inventive craftsmen who,

for almost two hundreds

years, have understood,

and adapted their design to

the changes in the lifestyle

of their times. This is the

story which is told here

after.

Charles Christofle be-

came the official supplier to

King Louis-Philippe and

the Royal family, making

"silver plate," hitherto a

craftsman's trade, into a

new industry in France. As

yet, he had no idea that his

name would become a

generic term and that fu-

ture generations would use

the term "Christofle" to

simply designate silver-

plate.

The turn of the century

was marked by the high-

profile presence of Christo-

fel at all the major univer-

sal exhibitions — Paris,

</div

## Karlsruhe knock Dortmund out of German Cup

BONN (R) — German League leaders Borussia Dortmund crashed out of the quarter-finals of the German Cup after a 3-1 defeat at home by Karlsruhe on Tuesday.

Well-taken goals from South African Sean Dundee and libero Jens Nowotny in the 26th and 59th minutes and a 74th-minute penalty from German international Thomas Haessler clinched an upset victory for Karlsruhe.

Reigning champions Dortmund, who scored a consolation goal from national team Libero Matthias Sammer in the 65th minute, played the last quarter of the match with 10 men after German international Steffen Freund was sent off.

Kaiserslautern needed an extra time goal to sink regional league side Homburg 2-1 while Fortuna Duesseldorf clinched their place in the last four with a 1-0 defeat of second division Nurem-

berg.

Bayer Leverkusen earned their place in the last four last week when they beat part-timers Altmar Stendal after a penalty shoot-out.

Dortmund laid on most of the early pressure on a cold and damp night but went behind when Haessler floated what looked like a harmless freekick into the penalty area. Dortmund goalkeeper Stefan Klos was unable to stop Dundee getting his head to the ball to give the visitors a 1-0 halftime lead.

Dortmund looked determined to bounce back after the interval. But it was not long before Nowotny made a clever run to beat the outside trap and slot the ball inside the left-hand post.

Sammer's individual effort narrowed the Karlsruhe lead to 2-1. Two minutes after Freund had left the field in the 72nd minute for his second poor tackle of the

game, Haessler made sure of victory.

"Of course I'm disappointed because we had enough chances to make the semifinals," Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said. "But we didn't deserve to win because we made too many mistakes in attack."

Kaiserslautern also finished their tie with 10 men after substitute Bernd Hollerbach was sent off in extra time for a foul. But Horst Siegl got the winner three minutes before the end after the two teams had been level at 3-3 after 90 minutes.

A 56th-minute goal from former Dortmund and German international veteran Frank Mill put Fortuna Dusseldorf into the semifinals for the 12th time.

The 37-year-old Mill's shot from a narrow angle brought a rare triumph to the club who have been struggling in the relegation zone in the Bundesliga this season.

## Season's final rally tour to be held Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Autosports fans only have two more events before the 1995 season concludes with the National Rally scheduled for Dec. 8.

This weekend, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) has organised the year's final rally tour sponsored by Akram Ramadan.

The two-leg rally tour will start from RACJ headquarters Friday at 9:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. The official results will be announced Saturday.

The country's top drivers are expected to participate as the event counts towards the 1995 Jordan Drivers' Open Championship.

Ahmad Al Daoud leads the standings with 153 points followed by last year's winner Bashir Bustami with 125 and Marouf Abu Samra with 114.

The rally tour is approximately 300 kilometres long, with several constant and average speed sections. The entire route will be on asphalt public roads.

The interval between competing cars will be 1 minute at each time control. The event is a rally of the second category where maximum speed is not a deciding factor determining the results. Therefore, there is no restriction on the type of vehicle entered provided that it does not exceed 2,000 kilogrammes.



Argentinian soccer star Diego Maradona waves to students before delivering his lecture at the Oxford Union (AFP photo)

## Maradona rebuilds tarnished image

OXFORD (AP) — Oxford University has seldom had a guest speaker like Diego Armando Maradona. "We've had Reagan and Gorbachev here, and he out-did them both," said Rabbi Shmuel Boteach, director of the Jewish student group L'Chaim Society.

"The students showed him a kind of adulation I haven't seen before," the Rabbi added. "Gorbachev got the restrained academic adulation, but not the gung-ho thing we saw with Maradona. They were clearly in love with him."

The student group — which regularly invites politicians and artists to speak and debate in the storied Oxford Union — offered Maradona the forum to address about 1,000 students and about 150 journalists.

"We had about 78 news organisations represented, far above what we've had here in recent memory," Rabbi Boteach said.

The 35-year-old midfielder, disgraced twice for drug-related suspensions from soccer, lapped up the chance. Notoriously unreliable, he arrived 50 minutes late — tied up in traffic to Oxford after a Concorde flight to London.

"A football player in my country is regarded as a know-nothing," Maradona told reporters. "So it was important for me to be here and show we're not as ignorant as they say we are."

Maradona, who began his second career comeback last month with the Argentine club Boca Juniors, used the historic debating chamber to promote his latest idea — a soccer players' union.

He lashed out at FIFA — the governing body of world soccer — and suggested they were behind his two 15-month suspensions.

But that's not what the students came for.

"I was hoping there would be something more interesting than his speech," said 18-year-old student Clare Dixon.

There was.

A student tossed Maradona a golf ball and he foot-juggled it. Then he balanced a soccer ball on his forehead.

The applause thundered both times.

"Just being in the same room with him was unbelievable, he's the best player in the last 20 years," said Tom Ewing, another 18-year-old student.

Seated beside him at the podium were his two young daughters, dressed in party dresses, and his wife, Claudia, who sat in the audience and eventually joined him, too.

"I've seen leaders, some very famous people have come through here and I've never seen them bring their children," Rabbi Boteach said. "Maybe it's because families are closer in Latin America. But that impressed me."

"He struck me as a great father and husband, at least from what I saw of him," he added. "There was a very earthy quality to him."

"It was pointed out to me that the mistakes he's made, he's never meant to hurt anybody, the only person's he's hurt is himself."

Maradona, a street kid who grew up in a Buenos Aires slum, seemed sincerely moved by the event.

"It's been very emotional... it's not often a soccer player can face so many people so rich in culture and education," he said, donning a cap and gown and holding an honorary diploma presented to him by Oxford's lord mayor.

"Master inspired of Oxford dreamers," the diploma read.

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## U.S. and Russia reach accord on Bosnia force

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The United States and Russia agreed Wednesday to allow Russian troops to participate in international peacekeeping in post-war Bosnia without being under direct North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) command.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev announced the agreement after meeting at NATO headquarters with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

Mr. Grachev said NATO's supreme commander in Europe, General George Joulwan, an American, "will have a Russian deputy who will give orders to the Russian forces." Mr. Grachev and Mr. William Perry said political control of NATO operation had yet to be worked out.

Russia would contribute 1,000-1,500 troops to the 6,000-strong peacekeeping force, Mr. Grachev said.

The U.S.-Russia accord has now to be approved by the other NATO allies, but this is not expected to raise problems.

In Washington, visiting Montenegro Prime Minister Mil Djukanovic predicted that the Balkan peace talks near Dayton, Ohio, could end with an agreement on Bosnia by the end of the week.

Mr. Djukanovic told reporters that his prediction was based on a telephone conversation with Montenegro President Momir Bulatovic, who is a member of the joint Serbian delegation in Dayton.

He told me that negotiations are being done in a constructive manner and that he expects that they should be ended by the end of this week," Mr. Djukanovic said

through an interpreter. He added, however, that the peace talks that began Nov. 1 were about to address territorial issues, such as setting the borders between the Bosnian Serbs and a federation of Bosnian Muslims and Croats, adding: "That is where the complications might occur."

Mr. Djukanovic said territorial issues in the Bosnia talks were more important than U.S. and Bosnian demands that Bosnian Serb leaders Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic be removed from power on the grounds that they have been charged with the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Asked what the prospects of peace in Bosnia were after a multinational peacekeeping force including U.S. troops were withdrawn one year into a peace agreement, Mr. Djukanovic said none of the parties was keen on having any foreign troops in the territory.

"They would be the happiest if they could be left alone, and to kill each other until they're all dead," he added.

The U.S. report David Rohde, detained by the Bosnian Serbs for over a week

since his arrest on Oct. 28. He was serving a 15-day sentence on charges of "falsifying" documents and "illegally" entering "Republika Srpska," the Serbs' rebel state in Bosnia.

The U.N. rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia, Elisabeth Rehn

said continuing human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia threaten to compromise any peace agreement.

"Without genuine improvement in the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, any peace agreement will not have a solid foundation," Ms. Rehn said in her first mission report.

The former Finnish defence minister added that "effective protection of human rights in the whole region under international supervision" should be ensured.

Ms. Rehn, who succeeded Poland's Tadeusz Mazowiecki in September, is to report back to the U.N. General Assembly on her tour of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia between Oct. 9 and 13.

Mr. Mazowiecki resigned in protest after the U.N. failed to make good on a pledge to protect the eastern enclave of Srebrenica. An estimated 8,000 Muslim men are still missing, believed massacred, after the U.N.-designated safe area fell on July 11.

Ms. Rehn called for the international community to set up a surveillance mechanism and said the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights must be given the support and necessary finances.

It was not initially clear if this meant Mr. Rohde would be freed from detention.

Mr. Rohde had been held

prisoner in Bijeljina, a town

in Serb-held northeast Bosnia since his arrest on Oct. 28. He was serving a 15-day sentence on charges of "falsifying" documents and "illegally" entering "Republika Srpska," the Serbs' rebel state in Bosnia.

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## Group warns of increased violence in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation (EOHR) warned Wednesday of an unprecedented surge in Islamic militant violence and the recent appearance of acts of mutilation on the victims.

The group said in a report there had been an "unprecedented increase in violent acts now taking place in the Upper Egypt governorates of Asyut, Qena and Minya."

There were 333 deaths in the three provinces between January and October this year compared to a total of 630 deaths in the previous four years, the report said.

In Minya, 250 kilometres south of Cairo, 259 people were killed since the start of the year — most by Muslim militants — almost as many as the 1,524 toll of 279 for the entire country.

Outlawed armed fundamentalist groups are carrying out a campaign of violence to try to topple Egypt's secular government.

The EOHR report said: "Egyptian Copts (Christians) have been a target of deliberate killings by armed groups since this violent trend started in 1990."

Twenty-four Coptic Christians have died so far this year, compared to 16 for the whole of last year, it said.

The report dismissed as "totally untrue" the claim by Muslim militants that Coptic Christians collaborated with police.

Police are the main target of militant groups, making up 51 per cent of the victims of armed militant groups, the EOHR said.

The rights watchdog also warned of a change in the practices of armed militant groups "with the appearance of mutilation of the bodies."

"It is striking that the armed violent groups have started, since August 1995, to mutilate the bodies of their victims to intimidate the people and prove their ability to revenge," it said.

The report named two peasants who it said were beheaded after being shot dead in August and September. One of the heads was placed in a plastic bucket and tied to a lamp post.

It said armed groups were responsible for 60 per cent of the 963 killings committed in the confrontation between militants and security services in the past five years.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hizbullah claims Israeli soldier killed

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbullah on Wednesday said its snipers shot and killed an Israeli soldier in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" to avenge the slaying of a Palestinian militant chief. But Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) denied the report. "A sniper unit opened fire at an enemy soldier in Saida (central sector) killing him at once," Hizbullah said, adding the attack was part of operations to avenge Fathi Shqaq, the head of Islamic Jihad shot dead by suspected Israeli Mossad agents in Malta last month. Israeli artillery meanwhile kept up an overnight barrage on suspected Hizbullah positions in South Lebanon and helicopters circled the region firing flares.

Children lit memorial candles that flickered and faltered in the wind. A Yemenite Jew chanted Psalms.

Ms. Perber's students from

Others intoned Kaddish, the prayer for the dead.

Army officers, rifles slung from their shoulders, fought back tears as teenage girls hugged each other and sobbed.

The other Israel, in which hardened enemies of Mr. Rabin's peace policy defaced his death notices, vandalised memorials and scrawled slogans praising his murderer, seemed more than a few streets away.

"Rabin was strong enough to lead us, he was brave enough to make peace, and I was naive enough to think he didn't need us on the street to support him," said teacher Carmela Ferber.

She said she felt guilty she did not attend the Tel Aviv peace rally at which Mr. Rabin was shot by an extreme-right Jewish student

opposed to his peace policies on Saturday night.

Ms. Perber's students from

Tikhoen Ramle-Lod high school, carrying an star-of-David flag with black streamers, sang the Israeli anthem Hatikva to the mournful accompaniment of a lone violin.

Another group of schoolchildren sang the song of peace which Mr. Rabin had sung in public for the first time a few minutes before he was assassinated.

As they sang, 20 runners from France led by a former Olympic sprinter and sports minister panted to the graveside in white T-shirts and running shorts, carrying a wreath inscribed in French "Paix et Tolérance."

They had been due to take part in a U.N.-sponsored marathon for peace and tolerance on Wednesday. It was cancelled after Mr. Rabin was shot. Instead, they ran five kilometres from a sports stadium to the hilltop graveyard.

At the graveside, the sound of Hebrew prayer mingled with the voices of recent immigrants speaking Russian, many of whom flocked to the Jewish state during Mr. Rabin's three years as premier.

## BA asked to compensate French Kuwait hostages

PARIS (AFP) — A French court Wednesday ordered British Airways to pay more than 25 million francs (\$5 million) compensation to French passengers taken hostage by Iraq while on a B.A. flight into Kuwait City at the start of the Gulf war.

The court, ruling on a civil action brought by a group of 65 passengers, said the airline had "total responsibility" for the seizure of the passengers and their subsequent use as "human shields" by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

It ordered the airline to pay 400,000 francs (about \$80,000) to hostages held for one month, 600,000 francs to those held for three months, and 60,000 francs to family members.

The 65 French people were among 364 passengers on board the plane, flying from London to Kuala Lumpur. British passengers have already taken similar legal action in Britain.

The hostages had alleged in particular that British Airways knew the invasion of Kuwait had begun on Aug. 2, 1990, and that the flight was used to land a group of SAS commandos in Kuwait — an allegation denied by British authorities.

Judge Pierre Renard-Peyre said that these allegations "cannot be legally established."

But he found against B.A. because, although nothing could have been done about the hostage-taking once it was under way, the whole event was "highly predictable."

"The financial and territorial demands by Iraq on Kuwait were well known... the movements of troops towards the border with Kuwait had become clear... the situation was particularly alarming on Aug. 1, 1990," he added.

"The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq appeared highly predictable," he said, ruling that B.A. had "seriously failed in its obligations and must be condemned to compensate... the whole of the detrimental consequences."

## Britain to extradite Paris suspect

LONDON (AFP) — Hours after the departure of a French anti-terrorist magistrate, British authorities Wednesday moved to extradite to France an Algerian arrested here last weekend in connection with a wave of French bomb attacks.

The Home Office identified him as Rachid Randa, 26, an alias for Abdul Kader Benouï, also known as Abu Fares.

Scotland Yard said Randa, unemployed and with no fixed address, was in custody at London's Paddington Green police station and would appear before a court Thursday morning for an extradition hearing.

He was one of five persons arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in raids in Islamic fundamentalist cities here on the weekend.

Randa was "released from PTA custody and rearrested and charged as follows," said the spokesman.

"Between 25 July and 7 November (of 1995) he un-

lawfully conspired with others to cause by an explosive substance an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property in France."

France on Tuesday had issued an international arrest warrant for Abdul Kader Benouï, alleging he masterminded a wave of bombings in France over the past three months.

The warrant cited his alleged role in an Oct. 6 bombing at the Maison Blanche metro station in Paris that left 13 people injured.

The French press has reported that Benouï was believed to have provided funding for French-based units carrying out the terrorist attacks, which began with a July 25 bomb blast at Saint Michel station in Paris which killed seven and injured 90.

French officials allege he was a member of the Armed Islamic Group, which has claimed responsibility for bombings in France.

A veteran of the war in Afghanistan, Benouï was

also sentenced to death in absentia by Algeria for an attack at Algiers airport in 1992 that left nine people dead and 123 injured.

The British media said he had been living on government assistance in the Hamersmith district of London.

The extradition proceedings were announced Wednesday hours after the departure from Scotland Yard of French Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who has been leading probes into the French attacks.

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